

Senior Class of 1962
50 Years Anniversary Reunion
&
Reunion of Their Classmates



St Rita's College, Clayfield
Saturday 14th July 2012
10.30 am – 3.30 pm

Reunion and Photo Details
In Memoriam
Biographies & Memories - Contact Details

The First Word

This little booklet is intended to assist you in finding your class mates of the 1958-1962 era. Some of them are deceased and many are “missing”, but the organizing committee for this reunion was able to find contact details for about 160 of them and all those were invited. About ten invitations remain unanswered, which could indicate that we had out-of-date addresses or that people were away from home or deceased. Many who were invited were unable to attend and politely contacted us. Some of those have submitted contact details for publication. But without explicit permission from each person, we are unable to give out contact details, even for people who attended the reunion. Feel free to contact anyone whose details are printed here, as they have agreed to the publication. Also, enjoy reading about their lives since leaving school and their memories of their school-days.

You will also find here *many lists of names*: names of those who attended the reunion, those who sent apologies, and those whom we know to be deceased or who remain “missing”. To assist you in recognizing the faces in the class photos on the DVD, there are also lists of names of people in the class groups: the old class photos of 1959 and 1962 and two informal class groups taken in 1959 and 1961; and of course, all the class groups taken on 14 July 2012. Using these lists, you should be able to identify people in all the other photos taken at the reunion. You will also find on the DVD some informal small- group photos that were taken at the 2010 reunion and a couple from reunions in 1986 and 1987. There is also a hotch-potch collection of “snaps” taken between 1958 and 1962 which we screened at the reunion. The old class photos are repeated here. Names have not been provided for these old photos. We recommend that you have this booklet open at the lists of names when you view the DVD.

We hope this booklet will be useful to you and I apologise for any errors it might contain.
I have never learned to type and this has been a frightening and very lengthy effort.
I have squashed it up a bit to save paper!

Patricia (Cutler) Mackenzie

On behalf of the Committee:-

Virginia [Bowman] Proh
Helen [Feeney] Bartlett
Margaret Hill

Margaret [Dowling] Howard
Julie [Hocking] Gladwin
Margaret [Crowe] Barritt

and our honorary advisor & member of the St Rita's Alumnae Committee, Monica (Barry) Molloy!



Students & Teachers Who Attended the 2012 Reunion

► JUNIOR - A 1960

Maureen [**Creedy**] Gallagher, Dianne [**Finnimore**] Riordan, Katherine **Howes**, Denise [**Hopsick**] Murphy, Lyn [**Murray**] Symons, Lila [**Schwenke**] Brosnan, Maree [**Bourke**] White *+Sen.62*, Mary **Draper** *+Sen.62*, Virginia [**Bowman**] Proh *+Sen.62*, Christine [**Charles**] Rolph-Smith *+Sen.62*, Thea [**Coleman**] Davies *+Sen.62*, Patricia [**Cutler**] Mackenzie *+Sen.62*, Maureen [**Ditton**] Reinders *+Sen.62*, Eve [**Puodziunas**] Wicks *+Sen.62*, Susan [**Radford**] Stephenson *+Sen.62*, Margaret [**Dowling**] Howard *+Sen.62*, Janice [**Evans**] Phippard *+Sen.62*, Kathleen **Tynan** *+Sen.62*, Bronwyn [**McDonald**] McKeering *+Sen.62*, Pat **Martin** *+Sen.62*.

► JUNIOR - B 1960

Helen [**Batzloff**] Kehoe, Jan [**Davidson**] Mulvihill, Suzanne **Desailly**, Roberta [**Herd**] Kuiper, Glenda [**Jarick**] Venn, Susan [**Jordan**] Nott, Denise [**MacRae**] McIntosh, Margaret [**Noakes**] Wilson, Marie [**O'Brien**] Maher, Andrea [**Wilkes**] Offermans, Monica [**Barry**] Molloy *+Sub-Sen.61*, Denise [**Cavanagh**] Andrew *+Sen.62*.

► JUNIOR - C 1960

Margaret [**Boyle**] Marsh, Cheryl [**Good**] Buchanan, Carmel [**Jeppesen**] Sheridan, Judy [**Keating**] Currie, Mary [**McMullen**] McCann, Helene [**Moretti**] Lees, Annette [**O'Connor**] Garbe, Lucille [**Millis**] Hyde *+Sen.62*, Joy [**Taylor**] Harvey, Ann [**Baker**] Watson-Brown *+Sen.62*, Lyn [**Bolton**] Harding *+Sen.62*, Margaret **Hill**, Helen [**Feeney**] Bartlett *+Sen.62*, Patricia [**Hand**] Cummins *+Sen.62*, Laurell [**Smetzer**] Brown *+Sen.62*, Dianne [**Sunn**] O'Brien *+Sen.62*.

► SENIOR 1962 Studied for Junior elsewhere

Sandra [**Malouf**] Saad (Sub-Sen.61), Lyn [**Ryan**] Allom.

► COMMERCIAL CLASS 1959-1960

Carmel **Brooks**, Veronica [**Hurt**] Johns, Lyn [**Lamb**] Rigney, Aileen [**McGrath**] Smith, Marcia [**Clothier**] Loth, Clare [**Fanning**] Chiverall, Noela [**Ferguson**] Fisher, Kay [**Gurowski**] French, Julie [**Mayo**] Kelly, Loretta [**Moffat**] McCabe.

► JUNIOR - A 1959

Patricia [**Baker**] Greensill, Shirley [**Butler**] Keun, Betty [**Jendra**] Potter, Rosemary **Haley** *+Sen.61*, Kath [**Hayes**] Lansdowne *+Sen.61*, Loretta [**Hunter**] Ferguson *+Sen.61*, Margaret [**Kilpatrick**] Fisher *+Sen.61*, Annette **Shears** *+Sen.61* unable to attend at last minute, Elizabeth [**Tinney**] McManus *+Sen.61*.

► SENIOR 1961 Studied for Junior elsewhere

Rosemary [**Horsfall**] Curtis, Gwenda **McNaught**, Margaret **Skehan**.

► JUNIOR - B 1959

Claire [**Baker**] Laws, Patsy [**Carroll**] Bein, Margaret [**Crowe**] Barritt, Susan [**Graham**] Stockwell, Julie [**Hocking**] Gladwin, Patricia [**Hogan**] Wells *unable to attend at last minute*, Carol **Hooper**, Anna [**Koczorowski**] Ortt, Alice [**Lawler**] Fitzgerald, Maureen **Long**, Lorraine [**McNamara**] Simpson, Winifred [**Nolan**] Magill, Sandra [**Watt**] Raymond.

► ODDS & ENDS! JUNIOR 1961-1972

Patricia [**Laracy**] Gee *Jun.61*, Fay [**Skilton**] Venus *Jun.61*, Judy [**Dobby**] Roberts *Jun.62*, Helen [**Jendra**] Evans *Jun.70*, Carol [**Jendra**] Russell *Jun.72*, Carolyn [**Barnes**] Forrest *Jun.61*, Maureen [**Nolan**] Hayward *Jun.61*.

► OUR TEACHERS

Sr Andrea **McGrath**, Sr Elvera **Sesta** [Sr Clement], Sr Consilia **Ring** , Sr Mary **McMahon** [Sr Jacinta],
Sr Loyola **McGrath** *unable to attend at last minute*, Sr Marguerite **Bartholomew**, Sr Mary **Foster** [Sr Concepta].

► OTHER GUESTS

Angela **Custance** - Secretary of Alumnae and Reunion Hospitality Supervisor!

Chloe **Parker** - Committee member of Alumnae and Reunion Photographer!

Dale **Morrow** ** Principal, St Rita's College, Morning Tea only

Bernadette **Fleming** ** Past Pupil & Teacher, Morning Tea only



Students Who Declined Invitations to the Reunion

Past students who responded but declined are listed here. Reasons given for not attending included:- ill-health, ill-health of close family members, bereavement, travel, other commitments and dislike of reunions.

► SUB-JUNIOR 1959 & JUNIOR 1960 A CLASS

*Mary [**Carroll**] Round, Diana [**Cavellaro**] Cassar, Lyn [**Chapman**] Epps, *Maurene [**Dahl**] Locke,
Judy [**Male**] Wyman, Gail [**Martin**] McGinn, *Anne [**Shuttlewood**] Osborne, Kay **Smales**, Patricia **Toovey**.

► SUB-JUNIOR 1959 & JUNIOR 1960 B CLASS

Marie [**Conway**] Cotter, Eileen [**Crane**] Roberts, *Patricia [**Fleming**] McIntosh, Diane [**Francisco**] Bonett,
Annette [**Kahl**] Ellis, Carmel **Kingston**, Moya [**Loth**] Pullinger, Nell [**McMullen**] Diamond,
Michele [**Power**] Reynolds, Pamela [**Wheatland**] Boyce.

► SUB-JUNIOR 1959 & JUNIOR 1960 C CLASS

Patricia [**Conroy**] Lunn, Pam [**Donovan**] McInnes, Margaret [**Dunne**] Farrell, Ann [**Scells**] Sweetenham,
Jocelyn [**Herschel**] MacDonald, Bernadette [**Miles**] Rutkin, *Denise [**Williamson**] Voltz,
Marie [**Laverty**] English.

► SENIOR 1962 - THE GOLDEN GIRLS!

*Anne [**Shuttlewood**] Osborne, *Mary [**Carroll**] Round, *Maurene [**Dahl**] Locke,

*Patricia [**Fleming**] McIntosh, *Denise [**Williamson**] Voltz. ** indicates already mentioned in earlier class group*

► COMMERCIAL CLASS/ES 1958-1960

Helen **Archer**, Noreen [**Boran**] Ryan, Celine [**Buchanan**] Jones, Veronica [**Cahill**] Brannigan,
Annette [**Habermann**] Salter, Carol [**Hindmarsh**] Caruana.

► SUB-JUNIOR 1958 & JUNIOR 1959 A CLASS

*Leonie [**McKenzie**] Austin, *Claire **Reppel**, Cecily **Roche**, *Patricia (**Williams**) Carlen,

*Annette **Shears** *had to decline at last minute.*

► SUB-JUNIOR 1958 & JUNIOR 1959 B CLASS

Gloria [**Clifford**] Crosby, Sally [**Geiger**] Fleming, Patricia [**Hogan**] Wells *had to decline at last minute*,
Valda [**Mitchell**] Swan, Frances [**Nolan**] Boyle, Margaret [**Poney**] Cawley, Carmel [**Slater**] Casey.

► SENIOR 1961

Frances [**Delaney**] Harding, *Leonie [**McKenzie**] Austin, *Claire **Reppel**, *Patricia [**Williams**] Carlen,
Margaret [**Shellshear**] Cortis-Jones. ** Indicates already mentioned in earlier class group*

► JUNIOR 1962 - Helen **Savage**.

► OUR TEACHERS

Sr Loyola **McGrath** *had to decline at last minute.*

We would like to thank all these people for keeping in contact.

We missed them on 14th July but hope to see them on future occasions.



Missing & Deceased Students *from 1959-1962*

► SUB-JUNIOR 1959 & JUNIOR 1960 A CLASS

No Details: Suzanne **Neilson**, Sandra **Peake**, *Kathleen **Berry**, *June [**Gray**] Jorgensen.

Deceased: Kerry **Duffy**, Cecily **Lamb**, *Margaret [**Cash**] Davison.

► SUB-JUNIOR 1959 & JUNIOR 1960 B CLASS

No Details: Linda **Brennan**, Margaret **Brunne**, Colleen **Fahey**, Dianne **Mason**, Diane **Putney**, Wendy **Lynch**, Carmel **Riordan**, Michelle **Smith**, Elizabeth [**Sacken**] Peters.

Deceased: Denise [**Smollen**] Palmer, Glenda [**Cavanagh**] Utteridge.

► SUB-JUNIOR 1959 & JUNIOR 1960 C CLASS

No Details: Mary **Carr**, Helen [**Doyle**] Hepburn, Marie **Edwards**, Carmel **Guthrie**, Barbara **Kelly**.

Deceased: Delma **Bawden**, Pam [**Griffiths**] Hardingham, Elizabeth [**Power**] Christopherson, Jacqueline [**Maranta**] Birchley, *Carmel [**Johnson**] Rainbow, *Lorraine **Smith**.

► SENIOR 1962

No Details: *Kathleen **Berry**, *June [**Gray**] Jorgensen, Phua Swee Poh [**Anne Phua**].

Deceased: *Margaret [**Cash**] Davison, *Carmel [**Johnson**] Rainbow, *Lorraine **Smith**, *Margaret [**Steinbeck**] Parkinson.

► COMMERCIAL CLASS/ES 1958/1960

No Details: Georgina **Briffa**, Nola **Burchitt**, Anne **Rutherford**, Judy **Wilks**, Janet **Gordon**, Anne **Moran**.

Deceased: Pam **Bridges**, Lorraine **Hurst**.

► SUB-JUNIOR 1958 & JUNIOR 1959 A CLASS

No Details: Margaret **Lette**, Paula **Byrne**, Deidre **Fahey**, Lorraine **Pashley**, *Patricia **Burke**, Wendy **Clarke**, *Ngaire **Gibson**, Maria **Bolger**, Sally **Eagan**, Jeanette **Richards**, *Freda **Clarkson**, Elizabeth **Pratt**.

Deceased: Patricia [**Kearney**] Holloway, Ngaire [**Conaghan**] Jackman, Helen **Brett**.

► SUB-JUNIOR 1958 & JUNIOR 1959 B CLASS

No Details: Diane **Phelan**, Sheila **Riordan**, Anne Taylor, Veronica **Moloney**, Marcia **Pattison**,

Susan **Minehan**, Lorraine **Lewis**, Karen **Ryder**.

► SENIOR 1961

No Details: Janet **Lee**, *Patricia **Burke**, *Ngaire **Gibson**, *Freda **Clarkson**.

Deceased: Margaret [**Buckley**] Schott.

If anyone has any information about any of these students, I would be pleased to record it and include it in the material I will be sending to the College Archivist. *Patricia (Cutler) Mackenzie*

THE WAY WE WERE.

Twin sets and Sportscraft skirts.
Bobbed hair and viyella shirts.
Trams, buses and trains our transport
And often walking miles without thought.

Brisbane in the sixties,
A city without mysteries.
Chided by every other state
But to many of us, just great.

Our school set high upon the hill
Had Nano Nagle's values to instil
In girls who came from far and wide
And wore their uniforms with pride.

Oh, look back at our simple life.
Free of fear and free of strife,
Except our worry of Russia's fate:
For the letter opening, we had to wait.

We think of Lyn, of all our mates,
She was the first to get her "plates".
And Sister Elvera's driving skill,
Black Cortina hurtling up the hill.

We remember a Boarders' boat trip ride
To Bribie, where Fairweather chose to hide.
Or processions solemn at the Ekka
For many it was a Christian's Mecca.

We honour those who heard the call,
The Brides of Christ who gave their all.
Mothers Aloysius, Veronica, Gabrielle, leaders fine,
Full of faith and wisdom divine.

Memories entwine, too many to recall,
Yet looking round and seeing you all,
The years of school days we can review:
We're here to celebrate and renew.

by
Ann [Baker] Watson-Brown





Group Photos on the DVD

Chloe Parker, a more-recent past-student of St Rita's, was the photographer at the 2012 Reunion. All of the 137 photos that Chloe presented to us are included on the DVD that you have received with this booklet. Group photos were taken of every class group represented. We have interspersed the "old" photos of the classes, taken in 1959, 1961 and 1962, in front of the "new" photos of these class groups, so that we can see a "before and after" effect!

◆ SENIOR CLASS 1962 - 2 students missing

L-R Back Row: Helen Feeney, Thea Coleman, Maree Bourke, Lucille Millis, Denise Cavanagh, Margaret Cash

2nd Back Row: Patricia Hand, Lorraine Smith, Mary Carroll, Virginia Bowman, Lyn Bolton, Denise Williamson, Ann Baker, Pat Martin, Lynne Allingham, Bronwyn McDonald

2nd Front Row: Maurene Dahl, Mary Draper, Lyn Ryan, Margaret Steinbeck, Susan Radford, Christine Charles, Carmel Johnson, Kathleen Tynan, Patricia Fleming

Front Row: Dianne Sunn, Margaret Dowling, Janice Evans, Maureen Ditton, Patricia Cutler, Kathleen Berry, Eve Puodziunas, Anne Shuttlewood, Phua Swee Poh (Anne Phua)

Absent from photo: Laurell Smetzer, June Gray. Already left: Monica Barry, Sandra Malouf

◆ ENTIRE SENIOR CLASS 1962

L-R Back Row: Patricia Fleming, Carmel Johnson, Lyn Ryan, Margaret Steinbeck, Susan Radford, Christine Charles, Kathleen Tynan, Maurene Dahl, Mary Draper

2nd Back Row: Denise Cavanagh, Thea Coleman, Margaret Cash, Maree Bourke, June Gray, Lucille Millis, Laurell Smetzer, Bronwyn McDonald, Helen Feeney

2nd Front Row: Dianne Sunn, Margaret Dowling, Patricia Hand, Janice Evans, **Sr Canice**, Maureen Ditton, Patricia Cutler, Kathleen Berry, Anne Shuttlewood, Anne Phua (Phua Swee Poh)

Front Row: Eve Puodziunas, Lyn Bolton, Lynne Allingham, Pat Martin, Denise Williamson, Ann Baker, Virginia Bowman, Mary Carroll, Lorraine Smith

Already left: Monica Barry, Sandra Malouf

◆ 2012 PHOTO OF SENIOR 1962 - 2 photos, *not standing in exactly straight lines*

L-R Back Row: Helen Feeney, Laurell Smetzer, Lucille Millis, Sandra Malouf, Eve Puodziunas, Monica Barry

2nd Back Row: Lyn Ryan, Maree Bourke, Bronwyn McDonald, Thea Coleman, Susan Radford, Christine Charles

3rd Back Row: Lyn Bolton, Virginia Bowman

3rd Front Row: Maureen Ditton, Mary Draper, Pat Martin, Patricia Hand, Kathleen Tynan

2nd Front Row: Margaret Dowling, Janice Evans, Ann Baker, Dianne Sunn, Denise Cavanagh, Patricia Cutler

Front Row: Sr Marguerite Bartholomew, Sr Mary Foster (Concepta), Sr Consilia Ring, Sr Andrea McGrath, Sr Mary McMahan (Jacinta), Sr Elvera Sesta (Clement)

◆ SUB-JUNIOR A 1959 & JUNIOR A 1960

L-R Back Row: Pat Martin, Dianna Cavellaro, Cecily Lamb, Maree Bourke, June Gray, Virginia Bowman, Margaret Cash, Janice Evans

2nd Back Row: Patricia Toovey, Denise Hopsick, Lila Schwenke, Sandra Peake, Susan Radford, Christine Charles, Katherine Howes, Mary McLuckie, Maurene Dahl

2nd Front Row: Kerry Duffy, Judy Male, Bronwyn McDonald, Lynette Murray, Suzanne Neilson, Kathleen Tynan, Mary Draper, Mary Carroll, Thea Coleman, Lyn Chapman, Maureen Ditton

Front Row: Margaret Dowling, Dianne Finnimore, Gail Martin, Christine Cushing, Eve Puodziunas, Gay Kelly, Patricia Cutler, Kathleen Berry, Maureen Creedy, Anne Shuttlewood

Absent: Kay Smales

◆ 2012 PHOTO OF SUB-JUNIOR A 1959 & JUNIOR A 1960 - 3 photos, *not standing in exactly straight lines*

L-R Back Row: Denise Hopsick, Lila Schwenke, Eve Puodziunas, Susan Radford

2nd Back Row: Margaret Dowling, Maree Bourke, Virginia Bowman, Bronwyn McDonald, Thea Coleman, Christine Charles, Kath Howes

3rd Back Row: Mary Draper, Pat Martin, Kathleen Tynan

3rd Front Row: Maureen Ditton, Janice Evans, Dianne Finnimore, Maureen Creedy, Patricia Cutler

2nd Front Row: (well to the right) Lyn Murray

Front Row: Sr Marguerite Bartholomew, Sr Consilia Ring, Sr Andrea McGrath, Sr Mary McMahon (Jacinta), Sr Elvera Sesta (Clement)

Missing: Sr Mary Foster (Concepta) missed the photo call!

◆ SUB-JUNIOR B 1959 & JUNIOR B 1960

L-R Back Row: Andrea Wilkes, Patricia Fleming, Margaret Brunne, Marie Conway, Sandra Casson, Clare Pascoe, Denise Smollen, Catherine Wafer

2nd Back Row: Diane Francisco, Glenda Cavanagh, Glenda Jarick, Jan Knowler, [?], Roberta Herd, Jan Davidson, Helen Batzloff, Linda Brennan

2nd Front Row: Suzanne Desailly, Wendy Lynch, Marie O'Brien, Moya Loth, Elizabeth Sacken, Eileen Crane, [?], Colleen Fahey, Monica Barry, [?], Denise Cavanagh

Front Row: Dianne Mason, Carmel Riordan, Sue Jordan, Carmel Kingston, Nell McMullen, Michele Power, Michelle Smith, Denise MacRae, Margaret Noakes, Pam Wheatland

Absent: Annette Kahl

◆ 2012 PHOTO OF SUB-JUNIOR B 1959 & JUNIOR B 1960 - 2 photos, *not standing in exactly straight lines*

Back row L-R: Glenda Jarick, Andrea Wilkes, Roberta Herd

2nd Back Row: (well to the right) Jan Davidson, Helen Batzloff

3rd Back Row: Suzanne Desailly, Marie O'Brien, Monica Barry, Denise Cavanagh

3rd Front Row: Sue Jordan, Denise MacRae

2nd Front Row: (well to the right) Margaret Noakes

Front Row: Sr Marguerite Bartholomew, Sr Mary Foster (Concepta), Sr Consilia Ring, Sr Andrea McGrath, Sr Mary McMahon (Jacinta), Sr Elvera Sesta (Clement)

◆ SUB-JUNIOR C 1959 & JUNIOR C 1960

L-R Back Row: Denise Williamson, Marie Edwards, Bernadette Miles, Ann Scells

2nd Back Row: Joy Taylor, Lucille Millis, Margaret Hill, Margaret Boyle, Jacqueline Maranta, Carmel Johnson, Mary Carr, Patricia Conroy, Helene Moretti, Laurell Smetzer

2nd Front Row: Lorraine Smith, Carmel Jeppesen, Annette O'Connor, Pam Donovan, Ann Baker, Cheryl Good, Jocelyn Herschel, Pam Griffiths, Lyn Bolton, Helen Doyle, Marie Laverty

Front Row: Delma Bawden, Dianne Sunn, Elizabeth Power, Carmel Guthrie, Barbara Kelly, Helen Feeney, Patricia Hand, Judy Keating, Margaret Dunne, Mary McMullen

Absent: Patricia Drake

◆ SUB-JUNIOR C 1959 & JUNIOR C 1960 Informal

L-R Back Row: Carmel Guthrie, Dianne Sunn, Ann Baker, Carmel Johnson, Margaret Hill, Ann Scells, Marie Edwards, Mary Carr, **Mrs Kathy Parer (nee Martin)**, Helen Feeney, Laurell Smetzer, Cheryl Good, Annette O'Connor, Pam Donovan, Jacqui Maranta

Middle Row: Carmel Jeppesen, Elizabeth Power, Helen Doyle, Patricia Drake, Lucille Millis, Pam Griffiths, Bernadette Miles, Denise Williamson, Marie Laverty, Patricia Conroy, Barbara Kelly

Front Row: Lyn Bolton, Jocelyn Herschel, Judy Keating, Mary McMullen, Patricia Hand, Delma Bawden, Lorraine Smith, Margaret Dunne.

◆ 2012 PHOTO OF SUB-JUNIOR B 1959 & JUNIOR B 1960 - 2 photos, *not standing in exactly straight lines*

L-R Back Row: Margaret Boyle, Lucille Millis, Helen Feeney, Lyn Bolton

2nd Back Row: Cheryl Good, Annette O'Connor, Margaret Hill, Patricia Hand

Middle Row: Carmel Jeppesen, Helene Moretti, Mary McMullen

2nd Front Row: Judy Keating, Ann Baker, Joy Taylor, Dianne Sunn

Front Row: Sr Marguerite Bartholomew, Sr Mary Foster (Concepta), Sr Consilia Ring, Sr Andrea McGrath, Sr Mary McMahon (Jacinta), Sr Elvera Sesta (Clement)

Missing: Laurell Smetzer missed the photo call!

◆ COMMERCIAL CLASS 1959-1960

Back Row (L-R): Julie Mayo, Pam Bridges, Clare Fanning, Judy Wilks, Janet Gordon

Middle Row: [?], Anne Rutherford, Nola Burchett, Helen Archer, Carol Hindmarsh, [?], Noela Fisher, Kay Gurowski, Veronica Cahill

Front Row: Georgina Briffa, Lorraine Hurst, Marcia Clothier, Loretta Moffat, Aileen McGrath, Carmel Brooks, Lynette Lamb, Annette Habermann, Celine Buchanan

Absent: Anne Moran, Noreen Boran, Veronica Hurt

◆ 2012 PHOTO OF COMMERCIAL CLASS 1959-1960 - 1 photo

L-R Back Row: Julie Mayo, Kay Gurowski, Clare Fanning, Aileen McGrath, Veronica Hurt

2nd Back Row: *well to the right* Noela Fisher

Middle Row: Carmel Brooks, Marcia Clothier, Loretta Moffat, Lyn Lamb

2nd Front Row: *in the middle* Sr Andrea McGrath

Front Row: Sr Marguerite Bartholomew, Sr Mary Foster (Concepta), Sr Consilia Ring, Sr Mary McMahon (Jacinta), Sr Elvera Sesta (Clement)

◆ JUNIOR A CLASS 1959

L-R Back Row: Loretta Hunter, Margaret Lette, Rosemary Haley, Elizabeth Pratt, Paula Byrne, Deidre Fahey, Kath Hayes, Margaret Kilpatrick, Lynne Corbett, Lorraine Pashley

Middle Row: Cecily Roche, Leonie McKenzie, Helen Brett, Patricia Kearney, Betty Jendra, Patricia Williams, Patricia Burke, Wendy Clarke, Ngaire Gibson, Annette Shears, Ngaire Conaghan

Front Row: Rhonda Gonchee, Maria Bolger, Sally Eagan, Jeanette Richards, Elizabeth Tinney, Claire Reppel, Freda Clarkson, Shirley Butler, Patricia Baker

◆ 2012 PHOTO OF JUNIOR A 1959 - 1 photo

L-R Back Row: Pat Baker, Shirley Butler, Kath Hayes, Margaret Kilpatrick

Middle Row: Betty Jendra, Rosemary Haley, Liz Tinney, Loretta Hunter

Front Row: Sr Marguerite Bartholomew, Sr Mary Foster (Concepta), Sr Consilia Ring, Sr Andrea McGrath, Sr Mary McMahon (Jacinta), Sr Elvera Sesta (Clement)

◆ JUNIOR B CLASS 1959

L-R Back Row: Diane Phelan, Sheila Riordan, Gloria Clifford, Margaret Poney, Margaret Crowe, Alice Lawler, Carmel Slater, Susan Graham

Middle Row: Carol Hooper, Anne Taylor, Claire Baker, Julie Hocking, Patricia Hogan, Frances Nolan, Veronica Moloney, Sandra Watt, Fay Pook

Front Row: Marcia Pattison, Sally Geiger, Valda Mitchell, Lorraine McNamara, Winifred Nolan, Anna Koczorowski, Susan Minehan, Maureen Long, Lorraine Lewis, Karen Ryder

Absent: Patsy Carroll

◆ 2012 PHOTO OF JUNIOR B 1959 on steps of Stanley Hall- 1 photo, *not standing in exactly straight lines*

NB: This photo is preceded by two informal photos taken on College driveway.

L-R Back Row: Patsy Carroll, *then well to right* Carol Hooper

2nd Back Row: Anna Koczorowski, Winifred Baker *partly obscured*, Maureen Long

3rd Back Row: Claire Baker, *then well to right* Lorraine McNamara

3rd Front Row: Margaret Crowe, Sandra Watt, Alice Lawler

2nd Front Row: Julie Hocking, Susan Graham

Front Row: Sr Marguerite Bartholomew, Sr Mary Foster (Concepta), Sr Consilia Ring, Sr Andrea McGrath, Sr Mary McMahon (Jacinta), Sr Elvera Sesta (Clement)

◆ SENIOR CLASS 1961

L-R Back Row: Loretta Hunter, Patricia Burke, Kath Hayes, Annette Shears, Rosemary Haley, Ngaire Gibson, Frances Delaney, Margaret Buckley, Patricia Williams

Middle Row: Claire Reppel, Margaret Skehan, Margaret Shellshear, Elizabeth Tinney, Janet Lee, Leonie McKenzie

Front Row: Freda Clarkson, Gwenda McNaught, Rosemary Horsfall

◆ 2012 PHOTO OF SENIOR CLASS 1961 - 1 photo

L-R Back Row: Rosemary Haley, Kath Hayes, Margaret Skehan, Rosemary Horsfall

2nd Row: Gwenda McNaught, Liz Tinney, Loretta Hunter

Front Row: Sr Marguerite Bartholomew, Sr Mary Foster (Concepta), Sr Consilia Ring, Sr Andrea McGrath, Sr Mary McMahon (Jacinta), Sr Elvera Sesta (Clement)

◆ 2012 PHOTO OF BOARDERS - 1 photo, *not standing in exactly straight lines*

Back Row L-R: Lila Schwenke, Lyn Lamb, Sue Desailly, Sue Jordan

2nd Back Row: Sandra Malouf, Lyn Ryan, Thea Coleman

3rd Back Row: Helen Jendra, Carol Jendra, Marie O'Brien, Ann Baker, Lucille Millis

Middle Row: Carolyn Barnes, Virginia Bowman

3rd Front Row: Claire Baker, Pat Laracy, Betty Jendra

2nd Front Row: Kath Hayes, Judy Keating, Gwenda McNaught, Margaret Crowe, Sandra Watt, Alice Lawler, Pat Martin, Patricia Cutler

Front Row: Sr Marguerite Bartholomew, Sr Mary Foster (Concepta), Sr Consilia Ring, Sr Andrea McGrath, Sr Mary McMahon (Jacinta), Sr Elvera Sesta (Clement)

Missing: Margaret Noakes - *missed the photo call*

◆ 2012 PHOTO OF "ODDS AND ENDS!" - 1 photo

L-R Back Row: Helen Jendra, Carol Jendra, Carolyn Barnes, Pat Laracy

Middle Row: Maureen Nolan, Judy Dobby, Fay Skilton

Front Row: Sr Marguerite Bartholomew, Sr Mary Foster (Concepta), Sr Consilia Ring, Sr Andrea McGrath, Sr Mary McMahon (Jacinta), Sr Elvera Sesta (Clement)



IN MEMORIAM

Some of the past students we have contacted have provided obituaries for several of our fellow students who have died. They were displayed at the Reunion and are reproduced here.

† MARGARET CASH DAVISON

My name is Bronwyn McKeering. I am a Brisbane friend of Margaret and her family.

My friendship with Marg started more than 50 years ago when we were at primary school at St Agatha's convent in Clayfield, Brisbane. We were the two who spent more time than others outside, being punished for talking in class. Luckily, the punishment did not have the desired effect and we have spent our lives talking, although often from afar.

Margie was the eldest child of Pat and Ethel Cash nee Gordon and lived in Hillcrest Avenue, Wavell Heights, until she married. She arrived at St Agatha's in Grade Four, a bright, bubbly girl with curly red hair and dimples. She was always popular. She was fun. Pat Cash was a successful and highly regarded business man who ran his own printing company, Cranbrook Press. Marg's mum was a loving mother and homemaker who was very sadly taken from her family by breast cancer when only 43 years old. I can clearly remember Mrs Cash at the tuckshop in primary school. Her line was always longer than the others as Marg took all her friends for a treat from her mum. After her mother's death, Margaret became the mother figure to her younger siblings.

We completed our secondary schooling at St Rita's College, and then Marg went to Teachers' Training College. It was during her secondary school years that Margie blossomed socially. She loved people and people loved her. She was very attractive and always the one with the first invitation to a school dance or party. As teenagers we were envious. She did all this while at the same time running the family home very competently. Marg became a primary teacher, popular with both parents and pupils.

In December 1965 Margaret went to Hong Kong for a brief vacation with a friend. It was by sheer chance that Margie met John Bell Davison – the love of her life and her husband for more than forty-one years. John was a Scotsman managing a tea garden in Assam, India, for the Inchcape Group. He was on six months long leave following three years work on the plantation. He had come to Hong Kong to spend Christmas with his sister, Esme, and his parents, who at the time were living there. Marg and John shared one week sightseeing in Hong Kong before Marg returned to Brisbane. The rest, as they say, is history. Late in January, John followed Marg to Brisbane to meet her family. They were married in Brisbane on 4th May 1966, having spent less than four months in each others' company.

The first time I met John he arrived at Marg's family home with a cardboard sign hanging around his neck with "Exhibit Number One" written on it. Marg had asked a group of girls around to meet him and he knew he was up for close inspection. Needless to say, he passed with flying colours. When they married and left their wedding reception to return to Assam, we all thought we would never see Marg again. No one travelled very much in those days and especially not to the high country of India. It has always amazed me that Marg was able to leave family and friends and her home country to go with a man she had only known for such a short time to live in a place she had never seen. That is true love!

Because of conditions in India with the company John worked for, they returned to Brisbane in late December of the same year and John began work with ICI. They built a house in Kenmore and we saw Marg's flare for interior decorating. She was teaching again in Brisbane until Elissa was born, bringing great joy into their lives. Marg had always enjoyed sewing and during these years she became a partner in a children's clothing shop at Indooroopilly. A second child was born, a boy, Lachlan, who sadly was very premature and did not survive. When Kirsty arrived a year later their family was complete. John's career led the family to move to Perth. These were happy years and Marg continued sewing, making small gift lines for ladies, the beginning of their future business, "Lady Like". During this time they had a trip to UK and borrowed a camper van from a friend. They enjoyed this so much that they purchased their own camper van when they returned home, travelling across Australia in it with their little children. Marg was very adaptable and this has been a strength throughout her life.

The family moved to Melbourne and Marg enjoyed visits to old friends and sharing family occasions with them. Marg joined four old school friends for an annual "girls' week". They would take turns organising events and usually went somewhere where they could enjoy talking, cooking, sharing the odd glass or three of wine and walking. Marg added an element of glamour to the bush walks by wearing her beautiful snake skin shoes and pearls.

She added another dimension to the cooking by always producing a cryovaced beef fillet from her designer handbag on arrival. She was honest, with a sense of propriety, and a sense of fun. She was a true friend.

(This is an edited version of the eulogy that Bronwyn (McDonald) McKeering delivered at Margaret's funeral in Melbourne after Marg's death from a rare cancer on 22 October 2007.)

† GLENDA [CAVANAGH] UTTERIDGE

Glenda Elizabeth Cavanagh was born on 10 October 1944.

She was married to David John Utteridge in May 1965. They had five children - Phillip, Debra, Scott, Todd and Leisa - and six grandchildren - Damien, Cameron, Kaylah, Lachlan, Elizabeth and Alex.

Glenda enjoyed a career in office work over the years but her primary role and great love were her children and grandchildren. She loved to shop and the phrase "shop 'til you drop" applied to her! Her children made great jokes about it at her funeral.

Glenda maintained a great love of life and family and kept her strong faith throughout her lifetime. She died on 9 April 2012.

Submitted by Glenda [Jarick] Venn on 3 July 2012.

† KERRY DUFFY

Kerril Ann Duffy - Born Warwick, Qld in 1945, died Perth W.A. 1991

Kerry Duffy was a mate of mine for the two years we were at St Rita's together in sub-Junior A and Junior A 1959/60. Her family had a hotel in Maryborough and I remember going home with her on school holidays. After she left St Rita's, our next contact was not for another 30 years, but it turned out to be very important.

I was nursing in Perth at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women. One day I received a call from someone asking if I was the Pat Martin who had gone to St Rita's and did I know a Kerry Duffy. The person who phoned was a nurse in the Oncology Day Unit at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, only a few blocks away. Kerry, who used her correct name of Kerril by then, had leukaemia. She also had a lovely husband and two gorgeous kids, a boy aged about 12 and a girl of 6 or 7. She had been diagnosed a couple of years before, had been in remission twice but there was to be no third time. By then, Kerry's parents had moved over to live with the family and help with the kids.

Over the next few months I spent a great deal of time with Kerry and her family. She died at home surrounded by her family, me, and two of the Registered Nurses who cared for her at "Charlie's". These nurses had changed their shifts so they could be with Kerry in off-duty time. She was much loved.

Vale Kerril

Submitted by Pat Martin 2 July 2012.

† PAM [GRIFFITHS] HARDINGHAM

Maureen Gallagher, Kathy Howes, Pam Griffiths and I were friends from our school days. We stayed in touch on a regular basis. During the 80s, with each of us living back in Brisbane, we four started to meet together on social occasions, with Pam being the regular key organizer.

Pam was a much-loved friend to each of us and since her death in 1995 the three of us have met together, usually in February around the time of Pam's birthday, to remember her and to celebrate our friendship.

Submitted by Margie [Boyle] Marsh on 3 July 2012.

An accompanying photo, included in the collection of "old photos" of St Rita's on the DVD, shows L- R: Pam [Griffiths] Hardingham, Maureen [Creedy] Gallagher, Kathy Howes and Margie [Boyle] Marsh at the wedding of Pam's eldest daughter, Suzanne, on 8 January 1994.

† CARMEL [JOHNSON] RAINBOW

I met Carmel Johnson when we started secondary school at St Rita's in 1959. We really became close friends in Sub-senior in 1961 and over the next two years I made quite a few trips to 54 Koala Rd Moorooka on my free (boarder) weekends. I always had a wonderful time there. Her mother was a serene, happy lady and her father was a jovial policeman in the Force in Brisbane. Her brother, Wallace, was a handsome young student at St Laurence's and Mary Therese aged about six, was much younger than her siblings. The family had lost a little boy of four before Mary Therese was born.

Carmel dearly wanted to be a teacher and I think she would have been a good one. Unfortunately, she did not receive a Teacher's Scholarship. She joined the State Government Public Service before her marriage to Greg Rainbow and worked in a mobile chest clinic where TB tests were conducted. Greg, who was a detective in the Police Force in Brisbane, decided to join the Police Force in Western Australia about 1976 and Carmel, their son Gavin born in 1968 and a daughter born in 1972 joined him in W.A. Sadly, Carmel and Gavin's marriage didn't survive. Carmel's sister was already living in W.A. and her parents joined her there, too. These were busy days for Carmel, a single, working parent and we gradually lost touch. I have heard that Carmel and her parents managed a Retreat House for a while.

Carmel always had a quiet strength about her. I remember once attending a school dance, possibly hosted by Nudgee College, on a Friday night. Carmel had not had a pleasant day at school and had been in hot water over recent test results. She had not been looking forward to telling her parents the results and I had half-expected she would not turn up at the dance. But she did, and she looked radiant! I was tactless enough to mention my fears that she would not be there after a rotten day at school. She turned to me and said that there was no point crying at home as that would achieve nothing and that she would just have to try harder. She said that she was determined to pass Senior, and she did. She later told me that Sr Canice wrote a nice letter to her and her parents to congratulate them and said, "Well done, Carmel".

Carmel died in January 2010 of cancer. Her parents had predeceased her but her brother, Wallace, stayed by her bedside for days before her death. He was devastated when she died. Her sister, Mary Therese, and Carmel's children still live in Perth.

Submitted by Virginia [Bowman] Proh on 2 July 2012.

† ELIZABETH [POWER] CHRISTOPHERSON

Elizabeth Power was in Sub-Junior and Junior C in 1959 and 1960. She was a boarder from Western Queensland. Elizabeth married and had four children. She had three daughters – Anthea Jane, who has four children, Rachel, who is a teacher at Brisbane Girls' Grammar School and Ann Karyn, who has three children, and one son, Peter Charles, who has one daughter named Elizabeth. Elizabeth's sister, Patricia [Power] Pressland, says that their mother would be so proud of them as they have grown into beautiful adults. I have fond memories of Elizabeth both at school and after leaving school. Patricia sent me this information at my request.

Submitted by Monica [Barry] Molloy.

† LORRAINE SMITH

Lorraine was in Sub-Junior and Junior C in 1959 and 1960 and the Senior Class of 1962. She had a lovely, calm disposition with a quiet sense of humour and was always ready to join in a bit of fun. She was wonderful company and a loyal friend. After leaving St Rita's, Lorraine joined the Presentation Sisters at their Novitiate at Manly. She trained to be a primary teacher and started her teaching career at St Agatha's, Clayfield. Lorraine died in the late 1970s. She is remembered by her classmates with deep affection.

Submitted by Dianne [Sunn] O'Brien.

A photo of Lorraine is included in the collection of "old photos" on the DVD.

✠ MARGARET [STEINBECK] PARKINSON

I met Margaret Steinbeck when she arrived at St Rita's from Townsville just before the Junior Exam in 1960. I don't actually remember her being there, and I'm not sure which class she was in, but her name is amongst ours in the Junior Results published in the Courier Mail in January 1961. However, I certainly remember her being in our class in Sub-Senior and Senior.

Margaret was a quiet but confident person, a serious student who enjoyed intellectual challenge and a typical teenage girl with a love of life and a great sense of humour. After Senior she completed the first year of an Arts degree at the University of Queensland and then a year at the Teachers' Training College before embarking on her chosen profession of Secondary School Teaching in 1965. She married another teacher, Bill Parkinson, and over the next ten years they taught in several centres including Maryborough, Gympie, Aspley and Bundamba, where Margaret was appointed History Subject Mistress. They also had three children.

Margaret became active in the Queensland Teachers Union and first gained prominence in 1971 when she, her husband and two other teachers defied authorities and wore Vietnam Moratorium badges into their classes at Gympie High. This brought them national attention when they were the subject of a "Four Corners" program. Margaret was elected to the Executive of the Union in 1976 and served on Executive until her resignation in 1982. She was very highly regarded in the Union and became identified at that time as its leading feminist-activist. On her resignation from the Union she was awarded Life Membership at the age of thirty-eight. Nearly twenty years after leaving school I had met Margaret again in 1981 when I was elected to the State Council of the Teachers' Union. I was alone and very nervous when I walked in to my first Council meeting but Margaret caught sight of me and invited me to sit next to her. She explained everything that happened, pointed out the important people and helped me find my feet. I will never forget that. Margaret's marriage did not last and she moved to New Zealand where she took a position in the Post Primary Teachers Association. She met a new partner and I believe they were on a walking holiday in New Zealand when tragedy struck. I have heard that one of them fell, fully laden with heavy backpack, into a flooded stream, the other dived in to assist and both were drowned. I have tried to contact Margaret's former husband and her daughter for clarification and more information on Margaret's life but have not yet been successful.

Information on Margaret's involvement in the Queensland Teachers' Union has been taken from two books, *"Dazzling Prospects": Women in the Queensland Teachers' Union since 1945*, Ed. Roberta Bonnin; and *"A History of the Queensland Teachers' Union"* by Andrew Spaul & Martin Sullivan.

Submitted by Patricia [Cutler] Mackenzie.

An accompanying photo of Margaret is included in the "old photos" of St Rita's on the DVD.

✠ MARGARET [BUCKLEY] SCHOTT

Margaret Buckley was born on 27 March 1944. She was a very dear friend of mine whom I met at St Rita's College where we both sat for Senior in 1961. I have never met anyone with a better sense of humour than Margaret. When we left school, I became a Medical Laboratory Technologist and Margaret became a Radiographer and, for a few years, we both worked at the Mater Hospital in Brisbane. Margaret moved to Sydney, NSW, shortly after I did. I married Robert Cortis-Jones whom I met at Sydney Hospital in 1972 and Margaret was my bridesmaid.

Margaret married Martin Schott a few years later. Together they managed the historic hotel in Cleveland Street, Sydney, known as "The Native Rose". Margaret and Martin had one daughter, Lucy, born on 14 February 1983. Regrettably, Margaret died suddenly in her early 50s from a heart complication. I still miss her.

Submitted by Margie [Shellshear] Cortis-Jones on 5 July 2012.

An accompanying photo, included in the collection of "old photos" of St Rita's on the DVD, shows Margaret Shellshear, the bride, and her bridesmaid, Margaret Buckley, taken in Sydney.



CONTACT DETAILS, BIOGRAPHIES & MEMORIES

☰ ANN [BAKER] WATSON-BROWN

Enrolment Details: 1959 Sub-Junior C - Senior 1962, Boarder

Address: St Joseph's School, P O Box 535 Katherine NT 0851

Phone: 0427 185 394

Email: mawatsonbrown@hotmail.com

Life since school: After leaving St Rita's I went to Kedron Park Teachers' College and my first teaching job was at Mitchelton State School. I worked off my two years' bond then went travelling and working in New Zealand for 6 months with **Marlene Brown** (one of the Brown twins from school). We did hope to keep going to distant parts but ended up returning to Brisbane and I went teaching in St George. Injune followed that and then I was appointed to Burleigh Heads. I met **Robert**, my husband, there. His sister, Carolyn Watson-Brown, taught at Burleigh. We then had six children and lived at Townsville and Waterford, then moved into Tarragindi in Brisbane. After Rob retired from Air Traffic Control, we did various things: ran a shop in Tarragindi, managed a pool in Nanango (I also taught there), and managed a caravan park in Hughenden where we met up with **Sue Jordan** again. While in Hughenden, two of our girls went to boarding school in Brisbane so I went back teaching and had a year at Winton Catholic School. (I always thought of the Winton girls from school as I walked around the place.) We moved back to Townsville where Rob helped our son Donald with the management of Long Tan Pool and I worked for two years on Palm Island. **Sister Marion Kingston**, a presentation nun, was the principal there. It was a wonderful experience. Then we saw an advertisement for a job at Yirara College in Alice Springs. We both took positions as house parents. I stayed a year and then had a little Homeland school for four years at Red Sand Hill out of Hermannsburg. This was probably the most enjoyable teaching I have ever experienced. Rob and a couple of our daughters were tutors there with me from time to time. After that I did a roving release teaching job, going around various communities in Central Australia. Back to Queensland then where we went to help our daughter, Lisa, when she was having her first child in Middlemount. From there I had a stint at a little school called Clarke Creek with which **Rosemary Bowman** and her family have great connections. It was a great little school and certainly shows how people in the bush value education and work so hard to get the best for their children. Rob and I then went to Western Australia where we worked at an indigenous Catholic school in the Kimberleys called Ringer Soak. At the moment I am at Katherine Catholic School. Rob and I have enjoyed the various places we have been. We have four lovely grandchildren and Rob is helping with the two older ones in Brisbane as their parents have to go to and from Central Queensland with their jobs. Even if we have been a bit nomadic, I hope that our children have learned a bit more about the indigenous people and have a better understanding of the many issues that need addressing. I am grateful for the opportunities and experiences we have had and thank God that I have had good health. After catching up with so many at the reunion it is great to hear everyone's stories. We all have gone our different ways but we all have that special bond from our time at St Rita's. Over the years I have valued my friendship with **Virginia Proh**, **Lyn Harding**, **Sue Jordan** and **Pat Laracy** as our lives intertwined at various times and places.

Memories of St Rita's: For many students from country areas, if education was to be continued after Scholarship, a boarding school was the only option. Texas seemed a million miles from anywhere and our transport out was the steam train that seemed to take forever.

My mother was friendly with the Hartigans who owned and ran the Commercial Hotel. They had a residence in Bonney Avenue Clayfield and were familiar with St Rita's so Mum applied and preparations began. We arrived a day late and my first dormitory was in the old building. There were about 10 of us in the big dorm and several smaller rooms on the top floor as well as the nun's area. **Pat Laracy** slept near the door and was always first out of bed and kneeling for our morning prayer when **Sister Conlith** came through to wake us up. We had little dramas with some of the younger ones. **Kathy Higgins** often woke up sick in the night especially after a fete or celebration and we'd have to clean up if she didn't make it to the toilets. Study time was a new routine. External exams were nerve racking -NAPLAN would have nothing on it - as a school's reputation was at stake!!! When I moved over to the big dormitory, I was an early riser so I used to wake people up to study. We used the bathroom and the prime spots were the two bathrooms. A pillow in the bath tub made quite a comfortable spot. One morning my alarm went off and as I slept in

the bed next to **Sister Andrea's** cubicle, she thought it was hers and was up and down to her morning duties at St Agatha's. She returned as she was one hour early. Needless to say I didn't set the alarm again.

Friendships were formed that have lasted for years. It is also exciting to meet up with pupils not seen since school. **Pat Laracy** and I remember our free weekends when **Miss Noakes** would invite us with **Margaret** for an outing to the Shingle Inn. She was the most lady-like person you could meet and we often think of her kindness and generosity. Our Sporting activities were limited when compared to the boys' schools that competed in the GPS competition. I guess the day girls could join clubs and we did have some great athletes like **Sandra Casson** the runner and **Denise MacRae** the swimmer as well as the **Steinbeck girls** who were well known swimmers. I played tennis and well remember the great prowess of the girls from South East Queensland as well as the great skills of **Bronwyn MacDonald** and **Kath Tynan**. **Sister Loyola** loved her tennis. I was in the D Grade team which was labelled the 'social' team. **Thea Coleman** was in that as well and we certainly enjoyed our outings. Winning wasn't the top priority. By chance if we could get into Queen Street a treat at Chemist Roush was really a coup. (*I remember his "Fruit Cobbler!" Yum!! Ed.*) As boarders, we knew the routines of the sisters pretty well. Often they used to walk up and down the driveway in little groups. I guess it was their afternoon relaxation. Sometimes I was called into the nuns' refectory to get the record player working. (I have never been very technical but must have had some skill.)

The nuns had visitors on special feast days and sometimes we would see the black buick which chauffeured **Archbishop Duhig** up the drive and he would distribute welcome iceblocks to the boarders. We knew some of the sisters were studying and only in later life have I realised how brilliant some of them were. The work of **Sister Canice** in India, the great music teaching career of **Sister Marguerite**, the depth of **Mother Veronica's** knowledge covering so many subject areas and of course the skill of **Sister Jacinta** with Art of Speech are just a couple that come to mind. Anyway, life was not easy for them and I appreciate now their efforts with all of us. Fifty years on it is hard to believe how time has gone. I have been forever grateful that my mother worked so hard to send my sister and me to St Rita's. She was a single mother in a time when there were no benefits and we have learnt to appreciate her even more as we have had our own families and now see our grandchildren facing the many opportunities that are available in an ever changing world.

Ann attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

☰ MONICIA [BARRY] MOLLOY

Enrolment Details: 1959 Sub-Junior B & Sub-Senior 1961, Day Girl

Address: 91 Cavendish Street, Nundah Qld 4012

Phone: 07 3256 6390 & 0411 154 905

Email: monicamolloy@optusnet.com.au

Life since School: Monica became a nurse after training at Princess Alexandra Hospital from 1962 to 1966. She then did Midwifery training from October 1966 to 1967. At the end of 1967 she married Kevin Molloy and they have had four children: Brendan who is married; Louise who is married with two children, Dominic and Esther; James who is married with three children, Max, Leo and Ned; and Sarah who is married with three children, Xavier, Patrick and Olivia. Monica's occupation/s are listed as nurse, mother and "nama"! She held the position of nurse at Nudgee College for many years, retiring from there in 2003. She writes that during that time she "... had the privilege of caring for sons and nephews of many St Rita's friends". Monica has lived in Sydney, Port Moresby, Townsville, Canberra and Brisbane. Her hobbies are reading, crochet, cooking and most of all, entertaining friends and family.

Memories of St Rita's: The mode of transport used to travel to school - train and tram - and the other students travelling at the same time to and from St Margaret's, St Columbans and Clayfield College.

Hunter's Lane, a breeze in those days!

The effort to change back into uniform after swimming - in a tent, drying oneself and redressing whilst maintaining modesty!

Visits from **Archbishop Duhig** in his black shiny car.

Visiting the Carmelite Monastery at Milton in Junior year, requesting prayers for success in the Junior examination in exchange for - canned food.

Dances in the Hall with the Religious (Presentation Nuns and Christian Brothers) sitting up on the stage.

The dear Nuns and the hot/heavy habits that they had to endure in summer/winter and how kind

they were! Seeing a Nun (R.I.P.) in the chapel, the first deceased person I had seen.
Most of all, the wonderful girls I met there and whose friendship I have kept all these years later.

*Monica attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.
As she had helped to organize the 2010 reunion, she was asked to work in an advisory capacity to the
organizing committee for this reunion, and gave unstintingly of her time, experience and friendship.*

☰ LYNETTE [BOLTON] HARDING

Enrolment Details: 1959 Sub-Junior C & Senior 1962, Day Girl

Address: 17 Conway Court, Bli Bli Qld 4560

Phone: 07 5450 8805 & 0414 833 611

Life since school: I went to Teachers' College and became a teacher. I have lived in Brisbane, New Guinea and the North Coast. My hobbies are walking, reading, my dogs, cooking and travel.

Memories of St Rita's: Once I didn't learn my French vocabulary and got most wrong. **Sr Jacinta, or perhaps Sr Loyola**, went "crook" on everyone until it came to me (who usually had everything correct). She saw my stricken face and laughed, as did my classmates. The embarrassment was my punishment. It must have worked as I received "As" for French in both Junior and Senior!

Lyn attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

☰ VIRGINIA [BOWMAN] PROH

Enrolment Details: 1959 Sub-Junior A - Senior 1962, Boarder

Address: 18 Crotty Street, Indooroopilly Qld 4068

Phone: 07 3878 1909 and 0406 073 950 Email: vproh@bigpond.net.au

Life since school: After Senior, Virginia returned home to the Monto district and helped on the farm and in the house until August 1963 when she commenced work with the Commonwealth Public Service in Canberra, first in the Dept. of Navy and later in the Attorney-General's Dept at the Canberra Law Courts. Five years later, missing home and family, she returned to Brisbane and worked as a Personnel Officer in the P.M.G., later known as Telstra. In 1972 Virginia married David, a civil engineer who had returned from a year's National Service in Vietnam, at St Agatha's Church, Clayfield, the church which Virginia had grown to love as a boarder at St Rita's. They had a daughter, Monica, and two sons, Anthony and Matthew. David died in 2004. Virginia enjoys reading, a bit of travel, keeping in touch with friends and visiting her two grandchildren, Charlie and Isabel. She is "fairly involved" with her local church.

Memories of St Rita's: I was the fourth member of my family to attend St Rita's College, Clayfield, following my mother, **Monica Joyce**, and my two sisters, **Barbara and Rosemary Bowman**. Mum had attended Nundah Convent but turned 13 in February 1926 and possibly was one of the girls who started at St Rita's on its opening day. She did Junior and started Sub-Senior but left to work in her father's accountancy firm. When it was my turn to start secondary school, I was very pleased to have my older sister, **Rosemary**, still there in the boarding school. Life at St Rita's was quite a challenge after attending a small country state school twenty kilometres outside of Monto. I had to work very hard to keep up with the workload of eight subjects but boarders had set study times each night, except on Saturdays when we were able to watch a film. Television had started in Brisbane in 1959 but there were no TV sets at St Rita's and we were probably lucky not to have to cope with this new distraction.

I always suffered from homesickness, usually only for the first day back each term, but it continued right through to my Senior year! Although possessed of only an average voice, I enjoyed being part of the Boarders' Choir. We sang at weekend Masses and attended practice each Wednesday afternoon. **Sr Marguerite** was an excellent pianist and conducted the choir exceptionally well. The congregation appreciated our efforts. I loved the Saturday night films and **Sr Marguerite** very capably handled the projector. We often teased **Margaret Young** from Longreach and **Alice Costello** from Windorah who frequently emerged with red eyes from the film night! I also loved **Mother Veronica's** talks to the boarders on Sunday nights. She was full of wisdom and commonsense and gave us lots of advice for our future lives. She was a wonderful, warm, motherly nun. And I remember **Monsignor English** quite well. He had a beautiful, cultured voice and gave wonderful homilies. He was very loved in the Clayfield parish. In the early sixties he drove a green, low-slung car. We boarders used to call it "The Frog" for both its colour and its shape.

We boarders always looked forward to our trips home, usually by train unless parents lived close enough to drive to St Rita's. My trip back to school from Monto commenced at 4 p.m. Saturday afternoon and finished at Roma Street station at 7 a.m. on Sunday. I usually travelled with other younger boarders from Monto and Munduberra, but on one occasion I was on my own. I was very weary when the cabbie pulled up and announced we had arrived at St Rita's. We had actually arrived at nearby St Margaret's as I could see by the uniforms worn by several girls, walking across the quadrangle and staring at us in a very curious way! I loved the boarders' "free weekends" once a month when I often went to my grandparents at Holland Park. However, I also gained written permission from my parents to go to the homes of friends from my class. I visited **Helene Moretti's** aunt and uncle at St Lucia, **Carmel Johnson's** home at Moorooka and towards the end of Senior year, **Patricia Cutler's** home at Paddington. On that occasion, we went to the beach with her father and little sister. It was the last weekend before the Senior exams and was a much-needed break. After school finished for us I spent two days with the Cutlers before returning home to Monto. On the whole, I have good memories of my time at St Rita's and have retained several good friends from those days almost fifty years ago. The recent reunion has rekindled many friendships from that time.

Virginia attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

As a Committee member, she used her incredible memories of people and incidents to assist in locating many past pupils, and her quiet encouragement and sense of humour helped us through several worrying months. Thank you, Virginia!

CHRISTINE [CHARLES] ROLPH-SMITH

Enrolment Details: 1949 Kindergarten - Senior 1962, Day Girl

Address: 550 Brookfield Road, Brookfield Qld 4069

Phone: 07 3374 1094 (work) and 0408 181 307 Email: enquiries@brookfieldagencies.com.au

Life since school: Christine trained as a nurse at Mater Public Hospital and Royal Women's Hospital Melbourne - (midwifery) and took her Nursing degree at QUT. Her current occupation is Office Manager. She has three sons, one husband, two sisters, five nieces and two nephews. Christine has lived in Brisbane, Melbourne, New Guinea and Canada. Her hobbies and interests include books, movies, gym, yoga and travelling to Europe when possible.

Christine attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

SUZANNE DESAILLY

Enrolment Details: Poss. 1959 Sub-Junior B - Junior B 1960, Boarder

Address: Gold Coast, Queensland

Phone: 07 5597 2794 and 0422 451 348 Email: suzanne.desailly@aue.salvationarmy.org

Life since school: Suzanne did a Social Science degree and post-graduate studies in Social Science. First she entered the Presentation Convent but later had an array of roles and is currently employed as a Family Support worker at a Salvation Army Refuge for women with children. Suzanne has four adult children, two daughters and two sons, and also has fourteen grandchildren. She has lived mostly in New South Wales and Queensland and has been on the Gold Coast for 24 years. Her interests are mainly work and family, especially grandchildren.

Memories of St Rita's:

Daily mass and twice on Sundays - St Agatha's Church - Nuns

Character building - Friendship - Sense of Pride - Happy

Academic support - Study - Uniforms - Sport - Sausages

Beautiful suburb of Clayfield - Lawns and trees

Monsignor John English - what a character! - Deceased nun in open coffin in chapel!

Suzanne attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

☰ JANICE [EVANS] PHIPPARD

Enrolment Details: Sub-Junior A 1959 - Senior 1962, Day Girl

Address: 5 Judith Court, North Croydon Vic 3136

Phone: 03 9726 6273 and 0417 335 763 Email: janice_phippard@hotmail.com

Life since school: After Year 12, I studied Pharmacy at the University of Queensland and graduated as a pharmacist. I married John Phippard (deceased 1989) and had children – Anne-Marie, Michelle and David. I have lived in Sydney for five years and Melbourne for thirty-eight years. My interests are golf, tennis and netball.

Memories of St Rita's: I have very fond memories of my years at St Rita's and am very pleased that my parents decided to send me there rather than to All Hallows which was their original choice. I am grateful to **Sister Canice**, who in our Senior year taught seven Senior subjects each day and was school Principal as well; to **Mother Veronica**, who taught us very practical chemistry; and to **Sister Jacinta** who showed us that English could be an interesting subject.

But I also remember on cold winter mornings in our Senior year that **Sr Canice** would have us run up and down the driveway at 8.30 a.m. to warm us and wake us up to meet the day! I enjoyed the great school excursions to various places on the Feast of St Rita and on Presentation Day and also the outings a group of us used to go on during the school holidays – Mt Coot-tha being the destination – at least a couple of times. I remember the “changing rooms” we had when the pool was opened. On the hot days we were almost as wet after we dressed as we were when we came out of the pool. I remember the Speech Days in the Clayfield picture theatre where **Archbishops Duhig and O'Donnell** and **Monseignor English** tried to outdo each other, and the many student assemblies and concerts in the Hall including the great singing of **Father Creed**. There was a great spirit within the school and between the students and teachers and I feel very privileged to have had a nun teach me for all of my secondary education.

Janice attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

☰ HELEN [FEENEY] BARTLETT

Enrolment Details: 1959 Sub-Junior C - Senior 1962, Day Girl

Address: 16 Sprimont Street, Bald Hills Qld 4036

Phone: 07 3261 4574 and 0413 035 552 Email: m_hbartlett@hotmail.com

Life since school: After leaving St Rita's, I went to Kedron Park Teachers' College and began my teaching career at Sandgate SS. After 6 months at Caboolture SS I did my country service at Cloncurry – a very enjoyable experience. I returned to Brisbane and taught at Nudgee SS. In 1972 I married Mick Bartlett and lived for the next 11 years in Nambour where my first 3 children, Laurence, Christina and Daniel, were born. I upgraded my teaching qualifications through USQ and did supply teaching in the Nambour area and also taught full time at Palmwoods SS and St Joseph's. We all went to school together!

In 1982 we moved to Childers where Justine was born. Here I did contract work at St Joseph's, a lovely little country school which my children attended. We returned to Brisbane in 1987, in time for our 25 year Reunion. Laurie and later Dan attended Gregory Terrace and Chris, followed by Justine renewed our family connection with St. Rita's. I continued with supply and contract teaching with both Cath Ed and Ed Qld. After completing a Grad Dip in Resource Teaching at QUT I was appointed Learning Support teacher at Deception Bay SS where I taught until I retired in 2003. Mick and I enjoy travelling. Through my Irish father I have found my Irish roots. I have cousins in America and Ireland and keep in regular contact with them. We are also keen caravanners and have toured most of Australia. As a result of our time in Childers, we built a holiday home at Woodgate. It is now a second home to us and greatly loved and visited whenever possible by our children and grandchildren.

Memories of St Rita's: I remember

the intense rivalry to raise the most money for the missions and the lolly and cake days that were part of it;

the Shakespeare plays on Saturday afternoons attended by every high-school in Brisbane – they were such brave actors;

Wednesday afternoon sports when we changed our shoes but kept on our stockings – and the amazing game called “Captain Ball”;

Sr Canice's First Monday Talks when our indiscretions of the previous month were brought

to our attention;

Senior History classes with **Mother Veronica** who sat on one leg at her desk on the dais and then about 20 minutes later got up and changed legs. She also constantly ran her index finger inside her wimple. She made those classes so interesting;

racing up and down two flights of concrete steps at Toombul Railway Station to catch the bus outside what is now Toombul Shopping Centre, and then the reverse in the afternoons;

the sixpenny bus fare – if you had a bus pass -and passing your pass out the back window of the bus to those who didn't;

wearing brown gloves stiff with Heavens knows what;

Archbishop Duhig's visits to school when, on leaving, he passed money out the window of the car for students to buy ice-cream. Who were the recipients of these?

Helen attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

She was a member of the Committee and assumed responsibility for the buffet lunch and drinks. She also gave invaluable help with the slide show and the DVD of photos and liaised with the College archivist. Thank you, Helen.

☰ DIANNE [FINNIMORE] RIORDAN

Enrolment Details: 1959 Sub-Junior A - Junior A 1960, Day Girl

Address: 178 Mallowa Drive, Palm Beach Qld 4221 or PO Box 295, Currumbin Qld 4223

Phone: 07 5607 0130 and 0410 156 816 Email: driordan@optusnet.com.au

Life since school: Dianne has worked in the area of Financial Planning and has mostly learned "on the job". She was a Trust Officer and Business Development Manager for a Trustee Company. She is married with two sons, two daughters, two grandsons and two granddaughters. She has lived in New Zealand, Moranbah, Currumbin and Palm Beach. Her hobbies are sewing, family history, reading, walking and travel.

Dianne attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

☰ CHERYL [GOOD] BUCHANAN

Enrolment Details: 1959 Sub-Junior C - Junior C 1960, Day Girl

Address: 16 Oak Crescent, Lower Templestowe Vic 3107

Phone: 03 9850 5094 Email: pcbuch@bigpond.net.au

Life since school: Cheryl graduated from Melbourne University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2001. She has been a volunteer tutor in English to Adult Migrants and involved in home duties. She married Peter Buchanan and they have three daughters – Caroline, Jenny and Libby. Cheryl has lived in Rockhampton, St George, Gladstone, Mt Isa, Mackay, Sydney and Melbourne. Her husband worked as an engineer in construction, hence the many moves! Cheryl is a bridge player and a member of a very active Probus group. She and Peter enjoy travelling to the four corners of the world. They also enjoy attending Melbourne Theatre Company productions.

Memories of St Rita's: Cheryl's outstanding memory of St Rita's is ".....climbing that hill (Hunter's Lane) which seemed much higher then than it does now!"

Cheryl attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

☰ ANNETTE [HABERMANN] SALTER

Enrolment Details: Commercial Class 1959 – 1960, Day Girl

Address: 155 Fisher Road, North Cromer NSW 2099

Phone: 02 9971 9611 Email: annettesalter16@hotmail.com

Life since school: I did a Bachelor of Arts degree externally through the University of New England. I am now retired but my last position was an office manager, and English tutor for international students at Newcastle University. I have one daughter, two sons and two and a half grandchildren. I have lived in Canberra, Narrabri, Kempsey, Bateman's Bay, Eden, Newcastle and East Maitland. My husband was a forester – hence the moves! I now live in a retirement village on Sydney's northern beaches, close to family. I am in a walking club and am always busy babysitting grandchildren, meeting family, and doing volunteer reading tutoring at the local Catholic primary school. There is always plenty to do at the retirement village and there are lovely, very friendly, easy-going people here on the northern beaches

where there's a very low crime rate. I manage regular contact with my brother, Denis, and also Celine Buchanan from the Commercial class. Both of them live in Sydney.

Memories of St Rita's: I remember how great it was at our first Assembly to be told we would not be punished physically at St Rita's!!!! Couldn't believe it – no more cane!!!! However, I also remember scooting off from singing class with **Julie Mayo** to play tennis on the courts. **Sr Andrea**, our Commercial teacher, was a lovely nun, but I think we gave her a pretty hard time. (Yes, I am talking about you, **Marcia**, and you, **Janet!!!** Ha ha.) However, **Sr Loyola** always gave us a good talking to in Religion class after we had done something to upset **Sr Andrea**. I remember the time in cooking class when we poured burnt toffee down the sink and plugged the sink up. Overall, it was a great school and a great time. Happy days.

Unfortunately, Annette was not able to attend the Reunion on 14 July 2012.

PATRICIA [HAND] CUMMINS

Enrolment Details: 1959 Sub-Junior A – Senior 1962, Day Girl

Address: P.O. Box 900, Tweed Heads NSW 2485

Phone: 07 5536 1157 and 0414 761 783

Email: ptrcenergyhealing@yahoo.com.au

Memories of St Rita's: My memories of day-to-day life at St Rita's College start with taking the train, crowded with high school students, from Windsor to Mayne Junction, racing to catch the bus with **Maureen Ditton** and **Janice Evans** and then running up the steep hill at St Rita's in the hope that we'd arrive in time. I also remember Maths exam practice on Saturdays in Senior and a special Prefect's meeting in full uniform on one Saturday morning about keeping the rules. **Mother Veronica** shamed us all with her revealing comment that when challenged about speaking to boys while in school uniform, other students had remonstrated that Prefects were seen holding hands with boys themselves. (There must have been spies on those crowded trains.) I remember reaching the grassed playground for lunch after my first French lesson, exhilarated with the sheer excitement of speaking another language, and my tears of elation as I touched the end of the pool after my only Carnival freestyle swim in Year 11. I also still cherish the copy of Jane Eyre I received for winning first prize in English in Year Eight.

Life after school: My omission of a 15-mark question on language in Senior led me to retain my Junior Teaching Scholarship and enter the teaching profession as a Primary school teacher at the tender age of 17. Just as well it was primary, as the high school students would have eaten me alive. I remember borrowing a huge stuffed seagull from the Museum on Gregory Terrace and carting it home on the bus to Windsor for a lesson on birds. At Kedron Park Teachers' College, we were encouraged to take university courses part-time. I studied my beloved French for 2 years, taking public transport to St Lucia after college on Friday nights. My French teacher, speaking in French in second year, was just as scary as **Sr Canice**. "Mechant! Mechant!" for a score of 6/10 for translation. At college, I indulged myself in modern dance, music, pottery and art and collected a lot of dust on a college bus trip to Ayer's Rock where we broke down on the border of South Australia and had to wait for a replacement bus. I was more than ready to begin my life in the classroom. Fortunately for me, I was sent to Aspley Primary School, travelling with **Dianne Sunn** from Chermerside in her car, as there was no public transport then. I realised years later after my stint in the far west, how wonderful those students were. My attempts to teach recorder were better than my ability to play the instrument. In the year I turned 21, I was sent on country service. I joined a 5-a-side basketball team in Charleville, terrified of being bowled over by our larger opponents. I nevertheless managed to teach Grade 3 to sing the French national anthem for their annual concert. Classrooms were freezing. Because of my (limited) university studies, I became a High School teacher in Stanthorpe in charge of the French Department. I watched the snow fall from my classroom in winter. Here, I engrossed myself in theatre - acting, singing and dancing. This was the heart of Sicilian and Italian society and many pleasant evenings were spent singing under the stars among the granite boulders for which Stanthorpe is famous.

A transfer to Caboolture High enabled a move back home and a daily return trip of 80 km north by car. I remember with fondness the students who engaged in my drama group. I married and applied to teach in Sydney. I was given 2 concurrent positions as Patricia Hand, Maths teacher, and Patricia Cummins, French-History teacher at Killara High School in 1970. A gliche in the appointment system had me appointed immediately to Hornsby Girls and then to Chatswood High where I settled as an English-History teacher until I became pregnant and took maternity leave. We girls had been told at Training College that once we got married and became pregnant, we would have to resign from teaching in the Education

Department in Queensland for a higher calling. Fortunately, the Principal of Chatswood High gave me sound advice in defiance of that when I "confessed" to him that indeed I was pregnant and would have to resign. Chatswood was a relatively short trip to Macquarie University which I attended part-time at evening and completed 2 Majors in English and Modern History while teaching and looking after my 2 young children, Jacqueline and Julian. After maternity leave, I was appointed to Maroubra Bay and then for 13 years to Randwick Boys High. There, I edited the school magazine, coached debating and organised multicultural concert evenings. Apart from studying for my BA and then MA in Modern Literature and Linguistics at Macquarie University, and coaching my 6-year-old son's soccer team which played on Saturday mornings, the local amateur musical societies were the mainstay activities for my two children and me. I was in the dance troupe and took leading roles as a mezzo soprano. With threat of forced staff reduction, I volunteered to move and was placed at Sydney Girls High School. There, I took the debating team and selected students from the adjacent Sydney Girls and Boys High Schools to participate in their annual musical production. My daughter had learned ballet and, together, we choreographed the dancing. Joy oh joy, oh rapture! The dragon headmistress had fiddled the figures and we were overstaffed so, as last appointed, I was "invited" to teach at St George Girls High School at Kogarah. While there, I took a post-graduate course in Gifted & Talented Education at University of NSW. As well as my classroom duties in English and History, I volunteered as the extra-curricular co-ordinator for gifted & talented students. I was president of the Gifted & Talented society until 1996 and am now a life member and the local contact person in the Northern Rivers District of NSW.

For 15 years, I organised the single parent ministry at Maroubra Parish and became the State and National President of Solo Parents of Australia. I was invited to join the Australian Social Justice Council as a grass-roots member to advise the Australian Bishops on issues such as homelessness, poverty, unemployment and aborigines. I initiated the first church policy on domestic violence in my capacity as chairman of Domestic Issues, introducing the concept of child sexual abuse as an issue. I was invited by Bishop Brennan to organise a seminar on domestic violence in his diocese. I wrote the Prayers of the Faithful and homilies concerning domestic violence for Social Justice Sundays distributed by the bishops for the 6 years I remained on the Council. I had many encouraging talks with Bishop Gerry about the plight of single parents. Some of my best memories of Maroubra Parish were the Saturday night vigil singing with my group of 6 ladies, my solo parent ministry and being given the opportunity to speak from the pulpit about the life of a single parent, scary as it was at the time. I joined the Grail, an international Christian women's social justice movement, about 20 years ago. I had the opportunity to visit Catholic indigenous women in Papua New Guinea, African and indigenous Catholics, as well as study for a diploma in Spiritual Counselling at Ashland Seminary, Cincinnati, Ohio, where the Grail has an international hydroponic farm where women learn a variety of farming skills. I miss the closeness of my contact with these women in Sydney.

I was given a compassionate transfer in 2005 by the NSW Education Department to look after my father in Tweed Heads. I became his carer and retired from teaching to spend more time with him. This was a rewarding and valuable time. Since his passing and reviewing his correspondence, I have grown to admire this man and his contributions to Queensland Surf Life Saving as well as his contributions to installing and maintaining communications within Queensland during the war. I had been invited to join the Lions Club of Maroubra in 2001 and joined the Terranora Lakes Lions when I moved to the Tweed. My major portfolio with the Lions is my conducting of the annual Youth of the Year competition which brings me into contact with contributing senior high school students who are also good public speakers. I have been President at Maroubra and now at Terranora Lakes. In recent years, I have studied energy healing and Arhatic Yoga as a means of maintaining good health and I am now a certified teacher of this modality. I live at Tweed Heads in the house I bought with my father. I have 2 grandsons who live with their father at Montville - Jai, who is good at sport, and Taj, who is artistic and loves acting. My daughter lives in Sydney. Her eldest, Sinead, is 16, brilliant with English, does courses at NIDA and is a whizz at debating. She hopes to be a solicitor. Her sister, Alyssa, was chosen for a national dancing scholarship this year and wants to be a dancing teacher. I have ideas of many things I would still love to accomplish, too. It is great to bring the circle around and once again move in the sphere of St Rita's ladies.

Patricia attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

DENISE [HOPSICK] MURPHY

Enrolment Details: 1959 Sub-Junior A - Junior A 1960, Day Girl

Address: 2 Dalgety Street, Mount Gravatt East Qld 4122

Phone: 07 3349 8147 Email: j.dmurphy@bigpond.com

Life since school: Denise undertook further training in the fields of business and community health, and still works part-time with Queensland Health (Community Health Services). She married James and they had five children – two sons and three daughters. They now also have six grandchildren. They have lived in Brisbane and Canberra. Denise enjoys music, theatre and arts.

Denise attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

GLENDA [JARICK] VENN

Enrolment Details: 1959 Sub-Junior B - Junior B 1960, Day Girl

Address: 28 Currawang Street, The Gap Qld 4061

Phone: 07 3300 6846 Email: gkandgg@optusnet.com.au

Life since school: Glenda did Secretarial Studies at Central Technical College (now QUT). She worked in the Government Typing Pool, was a Secretary in private enterprise and was a Personal Assistant to a politician. Glenda married Grahame in 1968 and they had a son Adrian and a daughter Melissa. They also now have three grandchildren – Ruby, Eloise and Lindsey. Glenda was born in Pittsworth Qld and has lived in Ipswich Qld, Werribee and Laverton in Victoria, Nelson Bay in NSW and Brisbane. Her hobbies and interests include family, travel, movies, reading and meeting new people.

Memories of St Rita's: I remember happy, carefree days; being nurtured; encouragement to successfully achieve goals; and a wonderful time in my life and one I remember with great fondness.

Glenda attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

CARMEL [JEPPESEN] SHERIDAN

Enrolment Details: 1959 Sub-Junior C - Junior C 1960, Day Girl

Address: 50 Rome Street, Toowoomba Qld 4350

Phone: 07 4632 0122 and 0407 620 108 Email: carmel.sheridan@twb.catholic.edu.au (2012)

Life since school: Carmel attained Administration Certificates through BCA National Training Group. She has worked as an Insurance Clerk and Administration Officer. Carmel married Nick and they had three children, - Bennett, Alicia and Lucas. She has lived in Brisbane, Sydney and Toowoomba. Her hobbies and interests include patchwork, quilting, all things to do with craft, gardening and reading.

Memories of St Rita's: I have fond memories of my time at St Rita's. Just after we commenced in 1959, a reshuffling took place and two Sub-Junior classes became three. I felt some apprehension (soon dispelled) in finding myself in the "C" class. Within the general school community at the time the "C" class was inclined to be treated as "the third wheel". This probably had some influence on the fact that the members of the class became quite a close-knit group. I remember many late nights spent producing decorative "posters" to earn points for Nagle House – in lieu of being somewhat mediocre at sport! I also remember walking to and from Bonney Avenue to save the 3d tram fare – saved and spent at the end of the week – as pocket money didn't go far in those days!

Carmel attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

SUSAN [JORDAN] NOTT

Enrolment Details: 1959 Sub-Junior B - Sub-Senior 1961, Boarder

Address: Evandale Station, Hughenden Qld 4821

Phone: 07 4741 7384 and 0401 765 743 no mobile reception at home Email: evandale@bordernet.com.au

Memories of St Rita's, and life since school: I had five years at boarding school in Charters Towers before going to Brisbane to finish my schooling. After settling into life at St. Rita's I enjoyed my time there. I travelled to and from school by train. I left Brisbane on Thursday evening with all the other North Queensland boarders, hopped off in Townsville on Saturday morning, then in the afternoon caught the train west and Dad met me in Prairie in the early hours of Sunday morning. The trip back to school was

just as long. I was not a very keen student, but I did enjoy the sport, especially when I was able to play tennis with **June Gray**. Wow, could she play tennis! I was able to get to know how to get around Brisbane with our trips to other schools to play tennis and I loved the trips on the tram. I can remember the swimming pool being opened and we all enjoyed the pool. Going to the Valley pool for our first swimming carnival was an experience. I can remember being in a race and was going great strokes until I swallowed a huge amount of water and stopped like I was shot, an embarrassing end to my swimming career.

While I have not been in contact with many of my classmates, I have been kept up to date over the last fifteen years by **Ann (Baker) Watson-Brown**. Through her I have caught up with **Virginia** and **Lyn**. I did keep in contact with **Liz Power**. We had children on the same day! We met up a few times after we were married, but my trips to Brisbane were few and far between. Her death was so sad. We were good mates and had so much fun together at school. I can remember her aunts taking us out on some Sundays. We enjoyed their afternoon teas! Liz had a good singing voice. **Denise MacRae** and I were friends and I loved going out with her. She lived at Hendra amongst the racing stables. This gave me a chance to see all the horses. Once when I was out with her family we went to the football. Denise's father had been a good footballer. Denise was a great athlete and was our top swimmer, too. Her mother was very kind to me. Denise came home with me to Blantyre one holiday as did **Thea Coleman**, another of my good friends, who lived at Winton. My parents had known Thea's father's family as children. I also visited **Roberta Herd's** home during some of our free days. I think Mum and Mrs. Herd had friends in common, maybe Mum's sister, Poppy Knapp. I loved their home. Being able to go out with friends meant a lot to boarders. Even though I was happy at school, I missed home very much. Outings with aunts and uncles were always very welcome. I remember one of the nuns - I think it was **Sr. Rosaria** - used to like looking at the photos of our horses that I took to school with me. I used to show her my Hoofs & Horns magazines. Her family bred hunting horses in Ireland. It was only after I had a family of my own that I realised how much the Irish nuns must have missed their families and how sad they must have felt at times.

I left school after the second term in 1961. North Queensland was in the grip of a very bad drought and as I always wanted to return to the land, my parents decided to keep me at home to help out with the running of the property. My mother was teaching the two youngest kids in our family as well as running the household and cooking for staff. I became her offsider, but I was always very keen to get away from the house and help with the stock. It was a nice surprise when **Dianne Francisco** came to the Prairie district (where I grew up) as a governess. We played tennis and went to social events together. Some of the family for whom she worked still live in Hughenden but they have sold their property. My future husband was working on a property in the same district. We had a very happy time before we were married with lots of young people in the district – life was so uncomplicated. Our social life was wonderful – lots of tennis, race meetings, balls, parties and sports days. After I left school Dad gave me one of his horses to race and my brother used to train and ride him. We enjoyed considerable success with him at the local races. When Gordon and I were married, we went to Cunnamulla to live. We moved back to the North West to manage a property in the Richmond district. By then we had two little girls, Robyn and Sallyanne. Bruce came along in 1971. We moved into Hughenden for the kids to go to school. It was a culture shock for us to live in town, but we soon settled into town life and became part of the community, supporting the school, parish and various activities. In 1981 we found ourselves the proud parents of another son, Dennis. One day about fifteen years ago a man and his daughter came into the shop in which I worked looking for a new watch. He said he and his wife were the new managers of the swimming pool and caravan park. One thing led to another and I discovered the man was Rob Watson-Brown, **Ann Baker's** husband. Ann and I became great friends, as did Rob & Gordon. Ann has been my 'Information Bureau' for all things connected with St. Rita's. **Patricia [Laracy] Gee** also spent some time living in Hughenden when her husband was manager of the Commonwealth Bank. We renewed our school friendship. Nine years ago we had the opportunity to go back to managing a property and we took it. It was lovely to be back in the bush. That was a big job with lots of responsibility for Gordon. This year we took another position which is more suited to a man of 71 who forgets he is no longer 25! We are very lucky to have the lifestyle we enjoy. I tell everyone we have moved closer to Brisbane: our home is 60km south of our previous job! Gordon and I have shared many interests in our lives together - the love of the land, stock, sport and craft. Over the years we continued to play tennis and race horses. When the kids started riding we became interested in playing polocrosse. Through polocrosse we have travelled all over Australia. Gordon, Bruce and Sally have played for Queensland and Sally went on to play for Australia. We are both now very interested in craft. Gordon does leather work and makes belts, horse gear and handbag handles. I have always loved sewing and made clothes for the kids and myself. Now I have become one of those mad patch-workers. We are very lucky to have an active group that can access funding to have

wonderful tutors visit Hughenden. We will eventually move to Brisbane to live. Our children will all be down in the S.E. corner, so if we want them to look after us in our dotage, we need to live close to them! It will be nice to see our grand children as they grow into teenagers and young adults. I am very excited about catching up with school friends in July. I do not think I can thank the organizers enough for giving me the opportunity to do so.

Sue attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

SANDRA [MALOUF] SAAD

Enrolment Details: Sub-Senior 1961, Boarder

Address: 73 Wynter Street, Taree NSW 2430

Phone: 02 6552 2536

Email: sandras1945@bigpond.com

Life since school: After leaving St Rita's towards the end of Sub-Senior, Sandra studied and sat for the Senior Public Examination in Longreach. She married John and had three sons – Phillip, Chris and Stephen. She has lived in Taree since her marriage. Her interests are painting, singing in choirs, tai-chi etc.

Memories of St Rita's: "Looking back on 1961, I realise what a great year it was – making new friends and broadening my horizons. I always look back on that year with affection and gratitude for the opportunity of being there."

Sandra attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

PAT MARTIN

Enrolment Details: Sub-Junior A 1959 - Senior 1962, Day Girl and Boarder

Address: 601/221 Sturt Street, Southbank, Melbourne Vic 3006

Phone: 0419 906 157

Email: patmartinaus@gmail.com

Life since school: Pat became a nurse, was in a Registered Nurse program in Melbourne and graduated with a Masters' degree in Perth. Her career has been entirely in health - nursing, then nurse management and then international nursing. Pat has lived in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Hobart, Indonesia, Dublin and Geneva. Her interests are ballet, theatre and travel.

Pat attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

NELL [MCMULLEN] DIAMOND

Enrolment Details: Sub-Junior B 1959 - Junior B 1960, Day Girl

Address: 82 Camelia Avenue, Everton Hills Qld 4053

Phone: 07 3355 9817 and 0412 187 382

Email: Nil

Life since School: Nell is married with a son and a daughter. She has lived at Hendra and Everton Hills and her hobby/interest is swimming.

Unfortunately, Nell was not able to attend the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

She sent this apology after receiving the Invitation. "Dear Patricia, Thank you for thinking of me re the Reunion. Unfortunately we will be overseas and only arriving back on 15 July. Hope you all have a wonderful day. Kindest regards, Nell Diamond".

SUSAN [RADFORD] STEPHENSON

Enrolment Details: 1959 Sub-Junior A - Senior 1962, Day Girl

Address: 34D, 26-38 Mecklem Street, Strathpine Qld 4500

Phone: 0438 033 537

Email: susan040944@gmail.com

Life since school: Susan enrolled in Arts at the University of Queensland where she was awarded first class honours in English before attaining a Master of Arts in Language and Literature at the University of Leeds. She undertook further studies in Religious Education, Community Development, Management, Music and Journalism. Her occupations have included University teaching in Diploma of Education courses and Business Studies; Research and Curriculum development for Education Queensland; Management of Community Organisations including Kiabra, Institute of Pastoral Care; Relationships Australia; Carers Queensland and Mental Health Association. Susan married Michael and had nine children. They now also

have twelve grandchildren with more due soon. They have lived in Brisbane and Leeds. Susan's hobby is writing.

Memories of St Rita's: Running down the hill (Hunter's Lane) to the bus: a wonder that we are still alive!
Looking at the class upside down in the rear glass louvre windows at the back of the class and waiting for my eyes to adjust and see us right side up. I'm still waiting for life to come right side up!
Hiding in a classroom at a St Rita's dance even though I was a hostess as I was too tall for all the boys.
Developing lists of sport events; Studying at the last minute on the bus; Giggling on the bus for the boys to hear!

Susan attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

 **LAURELL [SMETZER] BROWN** - now known as Lauree

Enrolment Details: 1959 Sub-Junior C - Senior 1962, Day Girl

Address: 39 Opal Drive, Blackmans Bay, Tasmania Qld 7052

Phone: 03 6229 7529 and 0439 550 857 Email: lbab04@yahoo.com.au

Life since school: After leaving St Rita's, I studied for a Certificate in Teaching and Training of Sub-Normal Children (CTTSNC) at Lady Gowrie Centre at Bowen Hills. I also began, but did not complete, a BA at University of Queensland. I became a teacher of sub-normal children but have also worked as a teachers' aide, a cook and a textile artist. I married Peter and we have 4 children and 5 grandchildren. I have lived in Banyo and Fairfield in Brisbane; Toowoomba; and Launceston and Blackman's Bay in Tasmania. My hobbies and interests include patchwork and quilting, textile art, genealogy, reading, history, walking, gardening, growing Australian native plants and organic vegetables, exploring the natural world and Christian meditation.

Memories of St Rita's: There were so many wonderful lasting friendships. I had good teachers – including **Sr Loyola, Mother Veronica** who made history come alive and **Sr Andrea** who opened up the wonderful world of sewing/dressmaking which has developed into a passion for textile art, stitching and fabric. My education assisted my hunger to read and learn and ultimately to teach slow learners. I developed a passion for fabric, stitch and design which opened up the wonderful world of textile art. I extended my horizons beyond what my mother wanted me to do (typing and office work). I rebelled by wanting to stay on and do Senior and matriculate. I was the first and only one in my family and in my generation to reach that level of education. St Rita's opened up a whole new world for me outside my small family and working-class suburb. It enabled me to push the boundaries and stand on my own two feet. I realized inner strengths as a woman.

Lauree attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

 **KATHLEEN TYNAN PBVM**

Enrolment Details: 1949 Kindergarten - Senior 1962, Day Girl

Address: 28 Palmerston Street, Annerley Qld 4109

Phone: 07 3391 7149 and 0413 922 276 Email: ktynan@qld.pbvm.org.au

Kathleen attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

 **CLAIRE [BAKER] LAWS**

Enrolment Details: 1958 Sub-Junior B - Sub-Senior 1960, Boarder and Day Girl

Address: 21 Homestead Drive, Little Mountain, Caloundra Qld 4551

Phone: 07 5492 8621 and 0401 034 273 Email: calaws@westnet.com.au

Claire attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

☰ SHIRLEY [BUTLER] KEUN

Enrolment Details: 1958 Sub-Junior A - Junior A 1959, Day Girl

Address: 20 Tedman Street, Zillmere Qld 4034

Phone: 07 3865 1150 and 0413 483 798

Email: s.keun@bigpond.net.au

Life since school: Shirley completed a TAFE Diploma and has worked as a junior stenographer, secretary, DTP operator and web developer. She has three daughters and twelve grandchildren – 7 boys and 5 girls – aged from 13 years down to 5 months. Shirley has lived in Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Newcastle and Penang. Her interests include music, dancing, reading, and Asian cooking. Shirley has a passion for travel and is also in the Hash House Harriers and the Shirley Club!

Memories of St Rita's: I did the commercial strand at St Rita's and remember the wonderful teachers I had – **Sr Consilia, Sr Jacinta and Sr Marguerite** who was my music teacher. Sports Days were always fun. I was not good at sports but I loved Captain Ball. Does Captain Ball still get played these days? I remember the hike up Hunters Lane every morning with my heavy school port; lining up to go to class; music lessons and choir practice; uniform inspections - "Your petticoat is showing; your stocking seams are crooked; where are your gloves?"; homework and what seemed like loads of it at the time; the essay every weekend. Each school day I looked forward to seeing my classmates and I am still in touch with a couple of them to this day. I am proud that I went to St Rita's. What I am most thankful for is the excellent teaching I received. This gave me the skills to obtain good jobs from stenographer to executive secretary. My employer in Melbourne once asked me who taught me these skills and standards. I replied, "The nuns, and when the nuns teach you something, you never forget!"

Shirley attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

☰ PATSY [CARROLL] BEIN

Enrolment Details: 1958 Sub-Junior B - Junior B 1959, Day Girl

Address: 9 Bein Close, Narangba Qld 4504

Phone: 07 3886 6099 and 0423 767 993

Email: canaan12@bigpond.com

Life since school: Patsy did office duties after school. She is now busy running the office for the family building company. She married and had seven children. She now has twenty-eight grandchildren. Patsy has lived in Banyo, Geebung and Narangba. Her interests include photography and most crafts. Her family keeps her very busy.

Memories of St Rita's: I have very strong memories of my time at St Rita's. These include pride in being a student of St Rita's and at the same time a little contradiction in my experience. The teachers were tough but I guess that helped to build strong character. All that **Sr Andrea** taught me was put to very good use as I had such a large family. Most of what **Sr Loyola** taught me - typing, shorthand and bookkeeping - was also put to good use in my single working years and also in my married life as office manager of our building company. Our accountant was always impressed by my sound knowledge of bookkeeping. Thank you, Sr Loyola!

Patsy attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

☰ GLORIA [CLIFFORD] CROSBY

Enrolment Details: 1958 Sub-Junior B - Junior B 1959, Day Girl

Address: 4 Wilton Way, Doncaster Vic 3108

Phone: 03 9855 8705 and 0409 645 535

Email: crosbycrew@bigpond.com

Life since school: Gloria became a clerk-typist, then worked with the Public Curator. She married and had three sons and one daughter. Gloria has lived in Charters Towers, Gladstone, Townsville, Melbourne, Borneo (Brunei), Brisbane and Melbourne again. Her interests include Family, Community and St Vincent de Paul.

Memories of St Rita's: I loved the beautiful setting and quiet atmosphere. It was a lovely place to learn. I always remember trying to avoid sport. It was an unforgettable time when I experienced the wonderful support of both the sisters and my class mates when my mother died in 1959. Kindness stays with one forever. I really enjoyed my schooldays. Thank you, St Rita's.

Unfortunately, Gloria was unable to attend the 2012 Reunion, but her photo is near the end of the DVD.

She wrote: "22 May 2012. Thanks for your invitation to St Rita's Anniversary celebration. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend as we will be visiting our daughter in England. I am really sorry to be missing seeing all the girls again.....I have been in contact with Maureen Long (we actually worked together) and Julie (Hocking) Gladwin. I actually saw Julie for the first time in 53 years today as she was in Melbourne and she brought me up to date with what has been happening. Have a wonderful time. I will be thinking of you all on 14/7/12. Also extend my thanks to all your organizing committee for their time and effort. Regards, Gloria Crosby (nee Clifford)."

☰ MARGARET [CROWE] BARRITT

Enrolment Details: 1955 Grade 7 - Junior B 1959, Boarder

Address: 26 Bellot Street, Wishart Qld 4122

Phone: 07 3343 1132 and 0415 883 875

Email: marg@barritt-aust.com

Life since school: Marg worked for seven years in the National Bank and then in the Department of External Affairs in Canberra. She has four sons. The family has lived in Canberra and Brisbane.

Memories of St Rita's: "As a boarder I got to meet and know a lot of girls. I think we all have some good and bad memories. I have remained good friends with a number of them."

Marg attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

She worked tirelessly to find and contact other women from the Junior class of 1959 & helped the Committee immensely.

Thank you, Marg.

☰ SUSAN [GRAHAM] STOCKWELL

Enrolment Details: 1948 Kindergarten - Junior B 1959, Day Girl

Address: 56 Achilles Street, Kedron Qld 4031

Phone: 07 3359 8478 and 0408 764 720

Email: malstockwell@optusnet.com.au

Life since school: Susan worked in Insurance for eight years before becoming a full-time mum. She has one son and one daughter. Susan has lived in Clayfield and Kedron.

Memories of St Rita's: Susan clearly remembers all her teachers from **Sr Anita** in Kindy, to **Srs Celsus, Loretto, Conleth** and **Immaculata** to **Sr Loyola** in Junior B. "I often think of **Sr Immaculata** as she taught grades 6, 7 and 8 all in the one school room, moving up and down the classroom all day. Imagine if anyone could manage that today!"

Susan attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

☰ JULIE [HOCKING] GLADWIN

Enrolment Details: 1958 Sub-Junior B - Junior B 1959, Day Girl

Address: 60 Baybreeze Crescent, Murrumba Downs Qld 4503

Phone: 07 3482 2474

Email: julie.gladwin@hotmail.com

Life since school and **Memories of St Rita's:** I attended St. Rita's just for the two years, I believe 1958 and 59. I finished scholarship at St. Pius' Banyo with a not very good mark but enough to secure a placement at St. Rita's, Clayfield. Boy, was I in for a shock. The school was very disciplined and we youngsters were pulled into line very quickly. We soon learned that there was no travelling on the bus without our hats, gloves and stockings pulled up correctly. We were fortunate enough to have as our teacher in both Sub-Junior and Junior **Sr Loyola** or "Lolly" as we fondly called her. Here she was, not all that much older than ourselves, teaching us "motley" lot of teenagers - as we were - Maths, English and our Commercial subjects. I soon learned to do my homework because I did not want Sister to "rouse" on me. She was such a striking looking nun with her black habit and her "miner's hat" as I used to refer to her head gear, so we were all anxious to please. I often think of how I loved the Commercial subjects which helped me in my chosen work, but not so the Maths. Gosh, what 15/16 year old wanted to learn about x - y or all those Maths B theorems, but we got there and most of us did very well in our Junior, thanks to Sister Loyola. I left school after my Junior year with a "not too bad" pass and first of all commenced work in the office at Finneys, which is now David Jones. This was not for long, not because I did not like it, but my father knew someone who worked at Golden Circle Cannery who was able to secure me a position in the General Office. There I stayed for 10 years. They were great times and the commencement of a new phase of my life. There I met my future husband, Keith Thomas Gladwin, whom I have been married to for 45 years.

We have two sons, Mark and Paul. Mark is an audio-omertrist and is married to Tracey and they have two children, Georgia and Blake. Paul is intellectually disabled after having had a brain tumour when he was aged 7. He lives in Gympie with the Endeavour Foundation. I had various positions after our boys started school. I was a Hosiery Consultant for a couple of years, then worked for The Right to Life Association for a few years, then along came a position at St. Joseph's School, Nundah, where I was employed as a Library Aide . Fancy that! I had never been inside a Library let alone been in charge of one! But I soon learned. And fast! Sister Marcella wanted me there and there I stayed for ten years. I loved the students at St. Joseph's and some of their mothers are now involved heavily in St. Rita's events like **Monica [Barry] Molloy**.

The latter part of my career was working at Myer, Chermside. I was there for fifteen years and I enjoyed Myer as well. I am a very social type of person and loved the interaction with fellow staff members and my very loyal customers. I still catch up with fellow staff members and we organise bus trips and lunches and I play bowls with two of my Myer friends. My husband Keith and I are now retired and residing at Murrumba Downs. We moved up here and down-sized from a high set home in Aspley to a smaller home. It is heaven - no steps! We play bowls and look after our grand-children as the need arises. I am so looking forward to the reunion and seeing my "old school chums" and we **are** "older" now. It was such a challenge to find so many but we did fairly well. It was difficult as so many have married and changed their names to their husbands'. I must thank **Marg. [Crowe] Barritt, Maureen Long** and **Carol Hooper** for their assistance in this quest and also **Carmel Brooks** for her input. We did well, Girls! And last but not least, I would like to thank **Sister Loyola** for helping to mould me into "who I am today" from the gangly teenager of yesteryear. I feel I "have done good" as the saying goes.

Julie attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

She worked extremely hard, locating past students from 1958-59 and the Committee appreciated her fine efforts.

Thank you, Julie.

CAROL (pref. HOOPER) [MORROW]

Enrolment Details: 1958 Sub-Junior B - Junior B 1959, Day Girl

Address: 6 / 52 Hall Street, Northgate Qld 4013

Phone: 07 3256 8306 and 0421 637 079

Email: carol.hooper@optusnet.com.au

Life since school: Carol married and had three sons. She has now reverted to her birth name. Carol did yoga teacher training at IYTA in 2003. She has also worked as a secretary and in airline customer service. Carol has lived in Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Gold Coast, Alabama (Georgia), Wake Island, American Samoa, Honolulu and Los Angeles. Her interests are ballet, yoga, and volunteering in the area of mental health.

Memories of St Rita's: It was all very strict and our teachers expected the best. Everything was very focused on integrity and turning out girls with character, strength and confidence to face whatever the future holds.

Carol attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

ROSEMARY [HORSFALL] CURTIS

Enrolment Details: 1960 Sub-Senior - Senior 1961, Day Girl

Address: 9 Lee Ann Crescent, Belmont NSW 2280

Phone: 02 4947 0399 and 0418 454 255

Email: rosycurtis@hotmail.com

Life since school: Rosy became a nurse, both psychiatric and General, training in Sydney. She also did Religious Studies in Sydney. She worked as an Assistant at Archbishop Duhig's house, "Wynberg", for nearly two years after Senior, then nursed for more than forty years. She is recently retired. Rosie married Paul and they have four children and four grandchildren. They have lived in Sydney, Perth, central-west NSW, Melbourne, Toowoomba and now in the Lake Macquarie area of NSW. Rosie's interests include reading, correspondence, languages, family, film and theatre, travel, history, genealogy, listening to music (especially classical, traditional folk and ethnic music) as well as playing the piano, gardening and collecting rocks and fossils. She also enjoys teaching English as a volunteer Home Tutor to migrants and refugees and does some work as a grief counsellor.

Rosie attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

BETTY [JENDRA] POTTER

Enrolment Details: 1958 Sub-Junior A - Junior A 1959, Boarder

Address: 38 High Street, Bundaberg Qld 4670

Phone: 07 4151 0329 and 0439 618 152

Email: bettypotter57@y7mail.com

Life since school: Betty has done secretarial work, nursing (briefly), and has also been a TAB Operator. She has more recently trained at the Chaplaincy Academy at West End, Brisbane, and is now a Chaplain. She married Len and they had four sons – Shane, David, Robert (deceased) and Lindsay. She has lived in Monto and Bundaberg. Betty has enjoyed playing trumpet in an orchestra and cornet in a brass band. She also enjoys golf, gardening, tennis, reading and listening to music CDs and DVDs.

Memories of St Rita's: My memories of St Rita's are of days filled with lots of friends, going on outings and, most important of all, lots of study and hard work. I wasn't game to go to **Sr Jacinta's** class with homework only half done! I was always also careful not to do the wrong thing where **Sr Canice** was concerned.

Betty attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

ANNA [KOCZOROWSKI] ORTT

Enrolment Details: 1958 Sub-Junior B - Junior B 1959, Day Girl

Address: PO Box 3375, Caloundra Qld 4551

Phone: 0409 534 411

Email: annaortt@hotmail.com

Life since school: Anna trained in administration in Aged Care. She is now a retired business owner. Anna has four children, all married now with children of their own. She has lived in Sydney, Lismore and Queensland coastal towns. Anna enjoys being involved in Community affairs.

Memories of St Rita's: They were fun years, but not long enough!

Anna attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

GWENDA MCNAUGHT

Enrolment Details: 1960 Sub-Senior - Senior 1961, Boarder and Day Girl

Address: 25 Topaz Street, Cooroy Qld 4563

Phone: 07 5447 6387

Email: gmmcn@westnet.com.au

Life since school: Gwenda has studied at both the University of Queensland and the Ateneo University in Manila. She has been a teacher at Longreach, Murgon, St Rita's and Mt Maria. Gwenda has also been employed as a Community Development Worker, Social Worker and a Mediator with the Family Court. Gwenda has lived in Queensland, the Phillipines and Papua New Guinea. Her hobbies and interests include languages and permaculture.

Memories of St Rita's: Good teachers -including **Sr Canice** and **Mother Veronica**- and happy times!

Gwenda attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

WINIFRED [NOLAN] MAGILL

Enrolment Details: 1957 Year 8 - Junior B 1959, Day Girl

Address: 18 Lakeside Road, Eastwood NSW 2122 - PO Box 132, Eastwood NSW 2122

Phone: 02 9858 5601 and 0409 052 568

Email: winmagill@gmail.com

Life since school: Win worked in secretarial positions in the Public Service in Queensland (State Industrial Commission). Later she worked in various offices and schools in Sydney. She has four daughters – Elizabeth, Michelle, Angela and Emma – and seven grandchildren. Win has lived in Brisbane, Sydney and New York. Her hobbies and interests include theatre, art galleries, craft and travel. She also works as a volunteer at various times for St Vincent de Paul and Meals on Wheels.

Memories of St Rita's: The nuns were very strict and kept us in line, especially when the St Columban's boys were involved. There are some stories not to appear in print...

Win attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

☰ CLAIRE REPPEL

Enrolment Details: 1958 Sub-Junior A - Senior 1961, Boarder

Address: PO Box 35, Innisfail Qld 4860

Phone: 07 4063 3800

Email: claire.reppel@westnet.com.au (dial-up only so no big emails with lots of photos, please!)

Life since school and Memories of St Rita's:

Claire has written two letters, one to her classmates and one to her fellow boarders.

Dear Friends from St Rita's,

***I am sorry that I cannot join you in Brisbane today** but, as you may already know, I am caring for my brother Garry, who has Parkinson's disease. I have very fond memories of my time at St Rita's and consider myself privileged to have had such an experience. I have often wondered what became of our special group and perhaps today you will find some answers. When we finished our exams, we went our separate ways, not realising that it would be fifty years before we made contact again.*

I have spent my time teaching in various high schools and thoroughly enjoyed my interaction with lots of great young people. I was also fortunate enough to enjoy the support and friendship of so many of my colleagues. As a career, I found teaching to be very rewarding, both professionally and personally (even though it could be a little frustrating at times!). When I moved into the regional positions of LOTE Co-ordinator and then School Support Centre Co-ordinator, I enjoyed the challenge of these roles, but I did miss the direct involvement with students. Eventually, with schools spread over 350 km, it became too much for this "ol' girl" and I decided to call it a day. However, I thought one particular project may be of interest. You will recall the ditty about Latin being a dead language. Well, I have to admit that it was my saviour when I was trying to decipher some Aboriginal languages. Some of the communities which still have strong links to their language and culture, asked me to help them develop formal programs which would encourage their young people to learn more about their heritage while they still had access to the expertise of their elders. To my amazement, I found that the structure of these languages is very similar to Latin. As they say, you should always expect the unexpected. I am still involved in a voluntary capacity in this area and, in collaboration with a well respected elder, have developed a framework for teaching and learning which incorporates the traditional holistic approach to knowledge. It has been a fascinating journey. I am now back on the family farm and am more appreciative than ever of the tranquillity that it offers. Yes, it still rains a lot in Innisfail, but rain is nothing compared to the recent cyclones. The force and the noise of the wind are frightening and we consider ourselves very fortunate to have had only minor damage to our home in both "Larry" and "Yasi". We had considerable damage elsewhere but events like that certainly make you reassess your priorities.

*That's enough rambling about how I have filled in the years, so what do I recall about life on the hill at Clayfield? I have so many very fond memories from way back then and many of you are part of them. First of all are the great friendships we formed, the confidences we shared, the happy times and the sad. Then, of course, I will never forget the special bond that existed between the boarders – but that is another story in itself and I'm glad that so many of you have been able to make it to the reunion. Other memories that spring to mind on occasions like this include **Mother Aloysius, Sister Canice, Sister Veronica** and for the boarders **Sister Anita**. But apart from the people, how could we forget things like the uniform (brown stockings, gloves and all); YCS activities; and whole school retreats (The nuns probably enjoyed the peace & quiet! Do they still have them?). Then there was the first swimming carnival in the new pool; cleaning our sandshoes with chalk before the house march on sports days; and some of our classmates will remember the day we hid miraculous medals all around the room after **Sr Canice** had been "harassing" us for a few days. (We survived so it must have worked.) But we did some work as well: what about those little coloured slips for translation every weekend? And oh, let's not forget the inevitable essays (There was always another topic, wasn't there?); and then practice exam papers (but to be fair, the nuns had to mark them: perhaps they had a little whinge occasionally too!); and Saturday morning school and so on.*

But life was pretty good really, wasn't it? We were blessed with good friends, good teachers and an environment and tradition to be proud of. So after all these years, I would like to say thanks for those memories and thanks too, to the committee who obviously put so much time and effort into giving us a chance to share them. I have included my contact details at the end of the letter but I just need to clarify my situation re email. For some strange reason, known only to superior beings in the telecommunications industry, I am unable to connect to broadband at home. However, I shouldn't complain, should I, because, if it is fine (and remember, this is Innisfail), and if I go and sit out under a tree in the middle of the yard, and if I line up with the distant tower, I can access mobile broadband. Whoopee!! So you can see why I am reluctant to have my address listed on any data bases or broadcast emails. Seriously though, I get by with dial up for

text emails and go elsewhere if anything else is urgent. So if you have got a few moments, I would love to hear from you. Have a great day.

Claire

Memories of being a Boarder at St Rita's College

Dear Boarding Friends,

What an experience we all had! It wasn't always easy but we had lots of good times, and now we have lots of memories ~ memories of what was essentially our home and our family for the period of time we spent there.

Dear old **Sister Anita**: I sometimes think she knew more than she let on. I'm sure she didn't believe that the Jaffas rolling on the wooden floor in the middle of the night were aspirins for a headache. And she probably didn't believe the story about the food port in the dorm either. (It was a good story though!) What about that red floor polish? It was a clever strategy to get us to do it at the end of term when we were excited about the holidays. Travelling by train had its moments too. How many stories have we got about midnight feasts? And let's not forget our "lovely" Sunday outfits. The orphanage look, wasn't it? How about being last for a shower, especially in winter? Our mail was really something back then, wasn't it? How times have changed! By the way, were your parents like mine? Somewhat amused by the notes or comments that "the ghost writer" occasionally added to my letters. The dining room has to rate a mention, doesn't it?

Tripe: "You're not leaving here until you eat it".

Sausage rolls and custard: the time when they confused the rolls with apple turnovers!

Meals in silence: Well, sort of!

That orange block dessert: we reckoned it was railway soap. Etc etc

What happened to all those holy pictures we used to give each other? Remember the cold westerly winds when we went around the corner on the way to Mass on winter mornings. And then there was **Monsignor English**. I can still hear him telling our choir, in his very distinctive voice, to "chisel your consonants and articulate your vowels". We weren't that bad, were we? But **Sr Marguerite** might have something to say about that! Speaking of the choir, remember the Xavier Concerts, and the night the little dog decided to upstage us. And of course, we can't forget our recording session with the choir. And Corpus Christi processions. When we talk about the Retreats, remember **Lucille's** prayer in Latin in the middle of the night. The Confiteor or the Creed, wasn't it? Saturday night film ~ I think most of us were banned at some stage, weren't we? Which reminds me of the furtive dash to the shop on Oriel Road on Saturday afternoons. They talk about education for life. Well, I didn't realise the significance of the games we had in the basement after study at night. But they gave us a head start for all the Tupperware parties, didn't they? These are memories of things or events, but my fondest memory of St Rita's will always be my **fellow boarders and the Presentation Sisters**. I really enjoyed the time we spent together and in a way, it is sad that we were part of a tradition that is no more. Then again, perhaps that makes our memories even more special. I wish I could be there today and I hope you have a great day/weekend.

Claire Reppel

ANNETTE SHEARS PBVM

Enrolment Details: 1958 Sub-Junior A - Senior 1961, Day Girl, Boarder for last term Senior year

Address: 23 Randolph Street, Graceville Qld 4075

Phone: 07 3379 2181 and 0408 196 720

Email: ashears@qld.pbvm.org.au

Life since school: Annette entered the Presentation Novitiate at Manly, completed a BA at University of Queensland and a Graduate Diploma TESOL as an external student at University of New England. Annette has taught at St Rita's, St Ursula's (Yeppoon), and St Peter Claver (Riverview) – TESOL. She also worked at Phanat Nikhom Refugee Camp, Thailand, in 1989 and 1990. She then studied in 1991 at St Columban's, Turramurra. Annette then worked at the Catholic Intensive English Centre in Lewisham from 1992 to 1995 and from 1996 to 2001 did TESOL teaching in various locations. From 2002 to 2004 Annette was a Networker for International Presentation Sisters. She was a member of the Leadership team Presentation Sisters, Qld, from 2004 to 2009 and is now retired and doing voluntary work with migrants and refugees and asylum seekers. Annette has lived in Brisbane, Yeppoon, Thailand and Sydney. Her hobbies and interests include singing, classical music, sewing, social justiceand travelling.

Annette planned to attend the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012, but unfortunately, she was not well and could not attend at the last minute.

☰ MARGARET SKEHAN PBVM

Enrolment Details: 1960 Sub-Senior - Senior 1961, Day Girl

Address: 41 Clyde Road, Herston Qld 4006

Phone: 07 3356 2411 and 0437 336 857

Email: mskehan@qld.pbvm.org.au

Life since school: Margaret, whose religious name was Sr Miriam Anne from 1962 to 1973, completed degree, certificate and graduate diploma courses and also taught at St Rita's, St Ursula's (Yeppoon) and Our Lady's College at Longreach between 1965 and 1990. She then became involved in Parish work and Family Support / Counselling between 1991 and 2004. Margaret was a member of the Presentation Congregation Leadership Team from 2004 to 2009 and then worked as a part-time counsellor and a tutor to refugee families. Since 2011 she has been coordinator of Herston Community of elderly Presentation Sisters and also is involved in part-time counseling, tutoring etc.

Margaret attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

☰ ELIZABETH [TINNEY] MCMANUS

Enrolment Details: 1958 Sub-Junior A - Senior 1961, Day Girl

Address: 53 Glen Tower Drive, Glen Waverley, Melbourne Vic 3150

Phone: 03 9560 7934 and 0421 984 986

Email: lizmcmanus@optusnet.com.au

Life since school: Liz attended Teachers' Training College (Home Economics) in Brisbane and also studied Music / Singing at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music. She later graduated BA (Hons) from Monash University, Melbourne. She has worked as a Home Economics teacher in Queensland and Canada and Director of Music at St Margaret's school in Berwick Victoria. Her latest occupation is Supergran! Liz married Kerry and they have a daughter, Madeleine (married to Marcus), and a son, Andrew (married to Anna), grandchildren Fergus and Annabelle, and grand-dog Milly..... Liz has lived in Brisbane, Kenilworth, Vancouver (Canada), Sydney, Melbourne, Loughborough (UK) and Baton Rouge (USA) and Melbourne. Her hobbies / interests include Music, choral conducting, cooking, and squash and skiing (now retired).

Memories of St Rita's:

Hurrying up the dreaded hill when the train was late;

Sight reading my music on the verandah outside the music room, overlooking the racecourse, and hoping to fool **Sister Marguerite** that I had practiced;

Sitting on the lawn listening to the Melbourne Cup and raising money for the missions;

Being sent by **Mother Veronica** in Sub-Senior to check out a huge crash from the Senior room where the girls were doing the Senior examination, only to find that the supervisor had fallen asleep and fallen off the chair on the rostrum!!!!

In Junior, watching in amazement as a small green caterpillar crawled across Sr's glasses and then onto her veil. I remember hiding behind the desk top convulsed with laughter, thanking God for the desk top!!!

I remember in the chapel, filing past the coffin of a young nun, so beautiful in repose.

School dances where the nuns sat on the stage and we all danced as far away as possible from the stage – not intentionally, but it just happened....

In my first days, stumbling over saying "Good morning Sister, God bless you Sister" instead of "Good morning, God bless you Sister" – so funny now but not then, as I had not been at a convent previously but at my father's school, where he was Principal.

Accompanying the choir and not following **Sister Marguerite** but racing away, enjoying playing for myself. She was not pleased. I had no idea I was supposed to listen, watch and adapt my speed.

I remember **Mother Veronica**, clapping her hands from the verandah of the convent, ensuring that we sat up straight on the grass and didn't lie about.

I also remember playing netball with socks over our pantyhose. How hilarious!

I remember our Speech Days in the movie theatre at Clayfield, and kissing **Archbishop Duhig's** ring when receiving a prize.

Very different from the Speech Night extravaganzas I have conducted at here for St Margaret's at Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash in Melbourne and I am sure similarly now are held at St Rita's. How times have changed.

Liz attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

☰ SANDRA [WATT] RAYMOND

Enrolment Details: 1958 Sub-Junior B - Junior B 1959, Boarder

Address: 4/128 Meadowlands Road, Carindale Qld 4152

Phone: 07 3843 4622 and 0411 110 556

Email: sandyr123@hotmail.com

Sandy attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

☰ CAROLYN [BARNES] FORREST

Enrolment Details: 1960 Sub-Junior B - Junior B 1961, Boarder

Address: 19 Hammond Street, Mysterton, Townsville Qld 4812

Phone: 07 4775 3215 and 0439 699 879

Email: cmforrest45@bigpond.com

Life since school: Carolyn held several clerical positions and also attended James Cook University where she studied nursing, graduating as a Registered Nurse. She has one son, two daughters and nine grandchildren. Carolyn has lived in Tully, Townsville, Rockhampton, Sydney and Atherton. Her hobbies and interests include reading, theatre, travel and friends.

Memories of St Rita's: These were two of the happiest years of my life. I was devastated when I learned that I wouldn't be going back for the last two years. Being a boarder within such a small group was like family. I made some wonderful friends, with many of whom I have lost touch. There were some very memorable nuns!! If only we knew then what we know now! ("Lord, keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth"!!)

Carolyn attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

☰ JUDITH [DOBBY] ROBERTS

Enrolment Details: 1961 Sub-Junior - Junior 1962, Day Girl

Address: PO Box 28, Surfers Paradise Qld 4217

Phone: 07 5538 3485 and 0418 768 155

Email: jorobe11@bigpond.com

Life since school: Judy became a stenographer / secretary. She was widowed in 2005 but has four step-children and ten grandchildren. She has lived in Brisbane and Surfers Paradise. Her hobbies and interests include studying Italian, Dante Aligheri Society (Gold Coast), Hospital Chaplaincy with the Pindara Pastoral Care Team, church activities and travel.

Memories of St Rita's: My years at St Rita's were happy and I made new friendships there. My oldest girlfriend is one I met when we started at St Rita's. Her name was Jo-anne Hackwood who later married Len Williams. Jo was a governess in north and western Queensland before she married. She and her husband managed properties in far western Queensland and they later lived in Longreach. Unfortunately, Jo later developed cancer and passed away nearly eight years ago. She had two daughters with whom I still have contact. She was a very special person.

Judy attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

☰ HELEN [JENDRA] EVANS

Enrolment Details: 1968 Grade 8 - Junior 1970, Boarder

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Phone: 07 3366 2332 and 0408 459 313

Email: dlhjevans@bigpond.com

Helen attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

☰ FAY [SKILTON] VENUS

Enrolment Details: 1960 Sub-Junior C - Commercial Class 1961, Day Girl

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Phone: 07 3878 1982 and 0417 629 946

Email: fvenus@bigpond.com

Life since school: Fay studied computing and worked as a company secretary, office manager and secretarial duties. She married Les and had three sons – Paul, Anthony and Matthew. Fay has lived in Toronto (Canada), Washington DC and Brisbane. Her hobbies include watercolour painting, book club, bridge, tennis, Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society, Qld Art Gallery Foundation, travel and lunch groups.

Fay attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.

☰ PATRICIA [CUTLER] MACKENZIE

Enrolment Details: 1959 Sub-Junior A - Senior 1962, Day Girl and boarder for the last few months.

Address: 16 Yowani Street, Robina Qld 4226

Phone: 07 5593 1892 and 0409 640 088

Email: tricia.mackenzie44@gmail.com

Life since school: I trained to teach at Kelvin Grove, studied for a part-time evening/external BA at UQ, (majoring in English, History and Government), lined up again to study for an external Grad. Dip in Ed. Stud. (Local & Applied History) at UNE and gained an AMEB A.Mus.A (performers) piano diploma. Miracles will never cease. My first teaching appointment was at Inala West State School and then I taught at St Rita's College; Warwick State High School; Samuel Lloyd Secondary School for Girls in Corby, Northamptonshire; Bruce Grove Infants' School in Tottenham, London; St Augustine's at Coolangatta; and finally at Burleigh Heads State School until retirement in 2006, followed by supply teaching there until December 2011. I married Ian in August 1967 at St Agatha's Church and we had three children, Andrew, Caitlin and David. We now also have three granddaughters, Isabella, Amelie and Charlotte. We have lived in Brisbane, Warwick, Corby, London and Gold Coast. My interests include family history research, reading, writing, music, art galleries and museums, concerts, ballets, operas and plays, photography, travel, pilates, tai chi and meeting friends for long chats over coffee or a meal.

Memories of St Rita's: My clearest memory of my four years at St Rita's is the panic attached to racing to catch the same tram as **Susan Radford** from Bardon to Adelaide Street and then rushing again for the Alexandra Park Rd bus from the City Hall to Oriel Road every morning. I think we possibly shared that bus ride, either to or from school, with **Clare Fanning, Patricia Toovey, Anne Shuttlewood, Janice Evans, Maureen Ditton, Carmel Riordan and Wendy Lynch**. That trip was followed by the effort of the climb up Hunters Lane with heavy "ports". My memory of our lessons is actually a bit of a blur now, but that journey to school is as clear as if it happened yesterday. It has scarred me for life!

Sr Consilia was our English, French, Maths A, Maths B and Latin teacher in Sub-Junior A. I loved the first two subjects and struggled with the other three. In our first days at school, **Sr Consilia** started us reading *A Tale of Two Cities* and *The Merchant of Venice* and I was entranced! But algebra, geometry and Latin grammar were frightening and I dropped Latin. I worried so much about science that I can't really remember who taught us Chemistry and Physics in Sub-Junior and Junior but going to the old Science Lab. was awe-inspiring! Visits to **Sr Marguerite** almost on a daily basis for piano lessons and theory classes in the Convent – beautiful Stanley Hall - provided a haven when maths and science left my brain filled with fog. Even the dreaded scales and arpeggios seemed refreshing and another part of my brain, as well as my fingers and arms, enjoyed the exercise. I actually looked forward to Theory lessons and my fellow students, including **Margaret Cash, Eve Puodziunas and Thea Coleman**, helped to make it enjoyable. I'll never forget that beautiful music room, and waiting on the verandah before my lessons, soaking up the early morning sun while watching planes landing and taking off at Eagle Farm.

I remember our first Retreat, a Redemptorist priest on the stage speaking more eloquently and persuasively than any other person I had heard at that point in my life, and trying hard not to talk to each other for three days. At another time, one of the **Fathers Creed** was urged to sing for us with **Sr Marguerite** accompanying him on the piano. Their rendition of "Jerusalem" left me choked and overcome and to this day I am taken back to that room whenever I hear that song performed. And I remember visiting a Carmelite Monastery in Milton but have no recollection of what we were doing there. However, I clearly remember going home and telling my mother, in deadly earnest, that I was going to become a

Carmelite nun. How my mother kept a straight face I'll never know. (I had a bit of a reputation as a chatterbox.....) Ah, they were strong, emotional experiences, all of them. We were growing up!

It was during our Sub-Senior year that I began to learn the power of a few well-chosen words. One afternoon, possibly during a rare "Free Time", I pulled out of my desk a photo of my grandfather who had been a policeman in New Guinea in 1912-1913. He was such a handsome young fellow, dressed in crisp white uniform with pith helmet and walking stick, standing on the edge of a jungle surrounded by people *he* described as "fuzzy-wuzzies". Goodness knows why I had it with me! I wrote a note saying, "This is my grandfather" and proudly passed it along to **Kathleen Tynan** for her admiration. She looked at me, raised her eyebrows, wrote something on the note and passed it back to me. Her message was brief: - "*Which one?*" I was rendered speechless. I learned two powerful lessons that day: the first, that it's not a good idea to brag, and the second, that a couple of words are often more powerful than many. Thank you, Kathleen.

The new pool was a blessing on sticky Brisbane afternoons after school, despite the trauma of dressing and undressing in difficult conditions. But I nearly lost a friend there one day. I was never a swimmer, got out of my depth and when **Susan Radford** tried to help me I nearly drowned her! Her version is that I tried to climb onto her shoulders but I find that difficult to imagine, given that she was so much taller than me. Fifty years later, she frequently makes a point of reminding me of the occasion. I still feel guilty, but it was either her or me and I selfishly chose to save myself! Surprisingly, we are both still alive and still friends. Thank you, Susan. Despite the fact that I was hopeless at all physical activities, I thoroughly enjoyed the hikes that a group of us used to organise to Mt Coottha on holidays. **Susan Radford, Janice Evans and Maureen Ditton, Mary Draper, Laurell Smetzer, Helen Feeney and Lorraine Smith** were frequent participants. We struggled up the mountain along bush tracks, lit fires and cooked - or burned - sausages and were very brave about snakes. Actually, I think we were just late developers, as many of our classmates at that time were going to football games and parties and mixing with boys.

The YCS movement was pretty important to us all. We went on a whole-school YCS picnic to Tamborine Mountain via Cedar Creek Falls in 1962. I remember **Sr Canice** giving us dire warnings about misbehavior on the journey. She concluded by saying, "You never know, I might have to come and sit beside you on the bus." And **Maureen Ditton** raised her hand and asked, "Sister, is that a threat or a promise?" There was a spontaneous intake of breath as the thirty-five other Seniors dared not move. A barely perceptible spasm around her lips slowly became a wide smile and Sister's eyes sparkled. The sigh of relief was palpable. From that day on, Maureen became a hero. She was indeed a brave girl. Another memorable YCS occasion was in the January holidays at the beginning of our Senior year. Several of us attended a Summer School at Stuartholme, which had a reputation for French nuns, well-heeled pupils and excellent manners. **Dianne Sunn, Laurell Smetzer, Kathleen Tynan, Pat Martin and Eve Puodziunas** were some of the participants. As we sat down to lunch in the dining room on the first day, **Mary Carroll** and I were shocked to see grapes being served. "Are we allowed to pick them up in our fingers?" I whispered to Mary. "No, I don't think so," she replied. Not wishing to bring the good name of St Rita's into disrepute, we sat there for ages, delicately eating our grapes with knives and forks. Thank you, Mary. Together we preserved St Rita's reputation and showed the Stuartholme people a thing or two.

I became a boarder in my last term, on **Mother Veronica's** recommendation. Boarding was less awful than I had feared, largely because I knew it was only for a couple of months, but also because my fellow boarders were good company and we were all very busy before exams. I remember the girl in the bed next to me showing me how to get totally undressed and redressed while still wearing my buttoned brunch coat. That has been a very useful thing to know and I practised the skill in several crowded Youth Hostel dorms in later years. (The ensuing silence indicated that others were very impressed.) **Ann Baker** was also extremely helpful when it came to the much-needed extra time to study Ancient and Modern History. She must have been an insomniac because she used to wake me around midnight and together we would sneak into the bathroom, cover the window with a towel and each settle into a bath tub with a pillow and a blanket and immerse ourselves in The Romans or Napoleon. Several hours later we would tippy-toe back to bed prior to being roused for morning Mass. My B passes might have been Cs if it hadn't been for Ann Baker, or, on the other hand, they could have been As if I'd had more sleep! Thank you, Ann. On one of our last nights before we left school forever, there really was a midnight feast on the staircase outside the dormitory near the Senior classroom. Someone, **Pat Martin or Maurene Dahl**, I suspect, organized food and we sat there and ate yummy things and felt very pleased with ourselves for our sneakiness. I guess it might have included all the Senior Boarders, possibly **Thea Coleman, Ann Baker, Virginia Bowman, Lyn Ryan, Lynne Allingham, and Pat Fleming**. It was the first time I had ever tasted a chocolate éclair and the experience set me on the road to ruin forever. I have remembered that feast every time I've had an éclair in the fifty years since!

In our last two years, **Srs Bernadette and Canice** tried valiantly to teach us trigonometry and calculus and they succeeded, too, but not with me. I dropped Senior Maths. **Srs Jacinta and Canice** exposed us to iambic pentameter, the sonnet, the art of précis and the correct use of the apostrophe, our first Shakespearean tragedy – “King Lear” – and the virtuous Jane Eyre. They also drilled us in irregular French verbs and the delights of Lettres de mon Moulin. **Mother Veronica** intrigued us with descriptions of lapis lazuli, the hanging Gardens of Babylon, the unification of Italy, the United Nations and Sir Garfield Barwick, (or Sir Barfield Garwick: she was never sure...) and most amazingly, taught us logic! (My husband still doesn't believe that I got an A for logic...)

Four whole years flew. One minute we were grappling with poor old Shylock in Venice and fearing for Sidney Carton at the guillotine, and the next we were crying for Lear, exposed to the violence of the storm and his insanity and then rejoicing with Jane Eyre when she finally got her man. And in the meantime, we became women. Many of us lost parents who did not live to see us finish school, and our teachers and our classmates stood beside us and provided love and strength in our grief. I remember that some classmates travelled to Bardon on a cold, wet Saturday, 14 July 1962, to attend my mother's funeral and seeing them there, in the St Rita's uniform, is a memory that has stayed with me when so many others have faded. And then it was all over. We each went off to make our way in life.

They were good years. I never wanted to stay home from school, although the days leading up to piano exams were pretty dire and I *still* have nightmares about going into exams not knowing my scales or not having memorised my pieces! The importance of education was instilled in us and we learned to discipline ourselves and to work hard. We learned to care for and to respect each other, and to care especially about people who were less fortunate than ourselves. We learned about fairness, equality, kindness and faithfulness. We made life-long friends. We had strong, dedicated teachers who taught us to believe in ourselves and to work to achieve our goals in life. I owe much to my old school and am very grateful to my parents that I had the opportunity to be a St Rita's girl.

*Patricia attended the Reunion at St Rita's on 14 July 2012.
As a Committee member, she will best be remembered for writing a few emails...*

When I resigned from teaching at St Rita's on the eve of my marriage, I stood on the Convent veranda and the College presented me with a beautiful *Colclough* tea-set. I was stunned, and actually speechless at the time. But every time I use my tea-set, I raise my little cup to my old school.



THE LAST WORD!

I would like to thank all those wonderful people who assisted in the task of getting this reunion off the ground. All the **Committee members** were generous with their time, their willingness to work and their good humour. I have already mentioned **Monica, Virginia, Helen, Marg Crowe and Julie**, but I must also mention **Margaret (Dowling) Howard and Margaret Hill** for their assistance with presenting Morning Tea. I know that Margie Dowling cooked for five days and was sure we'd run out of food! Their efforts rose above and beyond the call of duty.

Dale Morrow, the College Principal, agreed to welcome us to the College within minutes of meeting her daughter at the International airport. **Sr Elvera** liaised between the College and us and was instrumental in finding students to lead tour groups and to wait on our tables. The **students who helped us on the day** were efficient, courteous and helpful. **Angela Custance**, a teacher at the College, gave up her Saturday to supervise the "wait" staff and to clean away at the end of the day. **Graeme Bambry**, the College caretaker, generously gave his time to help in setting up and clearing away the Ballygriffin Room on Reunion Day, and two teachers, **Roger Graham-Wilson** and **Ben Greenup**, found and delivered to us a keyboard and showed Helen how to manage the screening of the photos. This was much appreciated. **Helen Jackson**, the college archivist, made all her records available to us. **Lisa George**, the Finance Officer at the College, was incredibly patient and understanding and smoothed our path at every turn. **The Alumnae Committee members** generously paid the rental of the Ballygriffin Room to keep the cost of this gathering down and within reach of our large group of retired women. **Chloe Parker** gave up a Saturday to spend it photographing our wonderful day, and then gave more of her time to check all her photos for "publication". She then delivered her work to me at the Gold Coast - on a Sunday. The College motto, "Action, not Words" is truly taken seriously by all these people.

I would also like to thank the **families of the committee members** for their patience and understanding. There were many day-long meetings, numerous long phone calls and many interrupted meals in the nine months leading up to the reunion. I am pleased to say that there have been no fractured relationships as a result.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to my friend, **Sue McKenzie**, who has saved me from a nervous breakdown by taking over the label printing and burning of the DVDs and assisting with the printing of these booklets. I could not have managed without her.

Patricia (Cutler) Mackenzie, November 2012



THANK YOU, ST RITA'S COLLEGE